VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF MINES, MINERALS, AND ENERGY VIRGINIA GAS AND OIL BOARD HEARING

Tuesday, June 16, 2020

Via Teleconference

BOARD MEMBERS:

Mary Quillen- Public Member

Donnie Rife- Public Member- Dickenson Co.

Donnie Ratliff- Representing Coal Industry

Bill Harris- Public Member

Rita Surratt- Public Member

Bruce Prather- Oil & Gas Industry Representative

Bradley [Butch] Lambert- Chairman of the Virginia Gas & Oil Board

APPEARANCES:

Rick Cooper- Director of the Division of Gas & Oil and Principal Executive to the Staff of the Board

Sarah Gilmer- Staff Member of the Division of Gas & Oil

Sally Ketron- Staff Member of the Division of Gas & Oil

Jerald Hess- Virginia Assistant Attorney General

Jody Maney- First Bank & Trust Company

Agenda Items

<u>Item Number</u>	<u>Docket Number</u>	Page
1	First Bank & Trust Quarterly Report [2019 Summary & 1st Qtr. 2020]	1
2	VGOB 92-0915-0257-03	4
3	VGOB 97-0916-0601-03	9
4	VGOB 06-0919-1714-02	13
5	VGOB 20-0421-4230	21
6	VGOB 91-0430-0114-02	24
7	VGOB 99-1019-0758-03	34
8	VGOB 01-0821-0918-02	24
9	VGOB 02-0319-1008-09	39
10	VGOB 02-0416-1020-01	24
11	VGOB 04-1116-1358-04	44
12	VGOB 05-0816-1491-04	24
13	VGOB 08-0415-2195-03	48
14	VGOB 19-1119-4227	52
15	VGOB 20-0218-4228	56
16	Update of Board and Division activities from staff	56
17	Review of November, 2019 minutes	63

ITEM NUMBER 1

- 2 <u>Bradley Lambert:</u> Good morning Ladies and Gentlemen, this is Bradley Lambert. Chairman of
- 3 the Board and it's now 9:00 and we'll try to begin our meeting this morning. We're not sure how
- 4 this is going to work but we are going to do the best we can. I would ask everybody that's on the
- 5 call, if you're not speaking please put your phone on mute. Right now, somebody called in and
- 6 not sure but as soon as they dialed in, we started getting a lot of static so some of the phones
- 7 don't work well on these conference calls. So please, please mute your phone. Also, I would ask
- 8 that when you begin anybody begins to speak, please announce who you are. We're trying to
- 9 record this as we go and it would be very helpful for our recorder to know who is speaking. So
- please introduce yourselves. Also, there's several people, I'm not sure how many people is on
- the call. We're not going to take a roll call of everyone but I ask you to be respectful and not try
- not to over-talk of people. Be respectful of people's time, we'll get time for everybody to speak
- and hopefully we'll get through this without too much complications. Also, Rick just said to
- remind you how to mute, but every phone's got a mute button on it. See if you can search your
- phone and find that mute button. We'll go down our docket just like we do at our regular
- meetings and call each docket, but as we do, I'm going to have some rules we are going to have
- to go by according to the Attorney General's office. I'm going to have to ask some questions and
- get an affirmative answer from folks as you begin to testify, so as we begin this morning as you
- notice on the docket, we're not going to do public comments during this call. I'm sure there's
- 20 public on the phone, I understand and respect that you may have issues that you want to talk
- about and bring up but given the situation that we're having to do this call we're just going to
- 22 have to go into docket and suspend comment during this one. But we will if and when we get
- back to our regular meetings, we will get back into public comment period. So at this time, I'm
- 24 going to ask Sally Ketron, if she will poll the board for a quorum. As she calls your name, just
- 25 introduce yourself and tell who you are representing. So Sally, if you are on the phone, if you
- will proceed with polling the board.
- 27 **Sally Ketron**: Okay, of course, Bradley Lambert.
- 28 **Bradley Lambert**: Yes, I am present and representing the Department of Mines, Minerals and
- 29 Energy.

1

- 30 **Sally Ketron**: Sorry. Okay, Bill Harris?
- 31 **Bill Harris**: Bill Harris, I'm a public member from Wise County.
- 32 Sally Ketron: Bruce Prather? [No response] Bruce, are you there? [No response] Okay, Donnie
- 33 Rife?
- 34 **Donnie Rife**: Public Member, Dickenson County.
- 35 **Sally Ketron**: Mary Quillen?

- 1 Mary Quillen: Public Member.
- 2 **Sally Ketron**: Rita Surratt?
- 3 **<u>Rita Surratt</u>**: Public Member, Dickenson County.
- 4 **Sally Ketron**: and Donnie Ratliff?
- 5 **Donnie Ratliff**: I'm representing coal, I'm here.
- 6 **Bradley Lambert**: Okay Sally and also J, are you on the line?
- 7 **Jerald Hess**: I'm here, good morning everyone. Everyone, my name is Jerald Hess. I'm an
- 8 Assistant Attorney General in the Attorney General's office. You can call me J. The rules that
- 9 Bradley referenced from the AG's office, those are my fault so we go through them, any
- complaints can go towards me but I took over representing the Mining programs for DMME
- earlier this year. Some of you have probably met me and Ingersoll. Dan is transferred to our Real
- Estate *inaudible*, I'm taking over for him. I look forward to meeting all of you guys in person
- as soon as I can but I'm here on the phone as a resource for you if anything comes up.
- 14 **Bradley Lambert**: Thank you J. At this time, we'll call Docket Item Number 1 and that's the
- 15 First Bank and Trust Escrow Agent for the Virginia Gas and Oil Board. They will address the
- Board with both the year end since this is our first time we've before the Board this year and also
- they will give us an update on the quarterly and for the Board members, you should have that
- report sent to you electronically. If you are able to pull that up, please do so. If you didn't get it
- or can't get it, just let us know and we'll try to get a hard copy to you. Ms. Maney are you on the
- 20 line and going to speak for the Escrow Agent?
- 21 **Jody Maney**: I am. Good morning.
- 22 **Bradley Lambert**: Good morning.
- Jody Maney: If you didn't receive a copy of it, please let me know and I can get one mailed out
- 24 to you or I can email it to you, either way. So we will start with a recap of 2019. The summary
- 25 for 2019 is on page 3. We've received deposits of \$317,746.83, we had interest earned of
- \$101,237.27, fees deducted from the account was \$9,785.32, and distribution paid for 2019 was
- \$1,342,489.94. This includes over 3200 checks processed with an average check amount of
- \$414.85. Our highest check processed in 2019 \$180,000 and our lowest check processed was
- \$.01. On page number four [4], this is our 1st quarter report. The 1st quarter for 2020 started out
- with a beginning balance of \$9,089,650.46. We had deposits for the quarter \$33,730.04. Interest
- earned at \$8,876.13. Fees paid out for the quarter was \$6,760.51 and distributions for the quarter
- 32 \$118,202.74 bringing us at an ending balance on March 31 of \$9,007,293.38. Now, as usual, our
- next several pages are the outstanding checks, this is as of March 31. If you go down to page 43,
- there is a total of \$55,783.70 that are in outstanding checks. On Page 44, is the Check

- 1 Escheatment page, this is only the checks that will be escheated this year. There's a total of
- 2 \$4,519.58 that will be escheated this year. Any questions on those?
- 3 **Bradley Lambert**: Ms. Maney, this is Bradley. Just a quick question, maybe for Rick Cooper,
- 4 he's sitting here with me as well. How much have we sent to Treasury so far?
- 5 **Jody Maney**: To Treasury, so far we have processed 23 dockets to the Treasury at the total of
- 6 \$53,085.06.
- 7 **Bradley Lambert**: Okay, thank you. Does that process seem to be going good?
- 8 **Jody Maney**: On the bank side, it seems to be going well.
- 9 **Bradley Lambert**: and Rick on our side?
- 10 **Rick Cooper:** This is Rick Cooper speaking, our side with Treasury has been going relatively
- smoothly and we have processed what Jody says. We had at least 200 petitions submitted to us
- that we are waiting on notice or issues of things like that. We've got the process started and it's
- going pretty smoothly and we should see that number peak quickly in the next couple weeks and
- 14 months.
- 15 **Bradley Lambert**: Thank you, Ms. Maney?
- Jody Maney: I think we have 16 deposits that we haven't processed yet and roughly calculating
- we have about \$330,000 that will be processed with those coming up within the next week or so.
- Any other questions? [No response] Starting on page 45, this is a list of all the funded units. It
- 19 goes with each docket item that we have; each account that we have. The beginning balance, any
- 20 deposits that we have received. This is just for the month of March. The interest received, the
- 21 fees that were deducted and any distributions that were during the month of March and any
- transfers for the no W9 spreadsheet, corrections made to the account and the ending market value
- for each individual account. You will have totals on page 59. Starting on page 60, this is the no
- W-9 list for the month of March. This is the list of all the people that have not submitted a W-9
- 25 to process their check yet. We have a total of about \$39,000 in that account and 430 individual
- 26 checks. Any questions on those? [No response]. Our next page is the annual distributions since
- 27 First Bank and Trust has taken over as Escrow Agent in 2010, we have disbursed out in over \$31
- 28 million and you will see that we've received over \$15 million in royalties and working income.
- 29 The last page is the investment of funds, as of March 31 we had all of the money in the money
- an annual rate of .2%. Any questions on
- 31 those? [No response]. Any questions from the committee?
- 32 **Bradley Lambert**: Thank you Ms. Maney, just a quick question kind of related to our escrow
- account and that would be a question for Mr. Cooper. What is our gas production for last year?
- 34 **<u>Rick Cooper</u>**: It's approximately 112 billion cubic feet.

- 1 **Bradley Lambert**: Down from?
- 2 **Rick Cooper**: The peak was about 140 billion cubic feet in 2010 -2011. So we've dropped in the
- 3 last 5-6 years about 35 to 40 billion cubic feet.
- 4 **Bradley Lambert**: Okay, thank you Rick. Thank you Ms. Maney, we appreciate again as usual
- 5 all the work that you guys do over there with the bank and managing the escrow account. Great
- 6 job, thank you very much.
- 7 **Jody Maney**: Thank you all, have a good day.

8 <u>ITEM NUMBER 2</u>

- 9 **Bradley Lambert**: Thank you. The next item on our docket is a petition a Pocahontas Gas LLC
- 10 re-pooling under Oakwood Coalbed Methane Gas Field I. Unit 04. Docket Number VGOB 92-
- 11 0915-0257-03. All those parties wishing to testify, you can unmute but what I need you to do as
- you begin to testify as Ms. Gilmer will swear you in, but I will need you to state your name, the
- location of all the individuals including the counsel that are participating in the proceedings and
- hearing the testimonies. The rationale for receiving a sworn testimony by telecom or video
- conference rather than in person and the method by which their testimony being provided and the
- method by which the testimony is being recorded or memorialized. Also, I will take care of this
- part, we will include in the record the date, time and place of the testimony and the witnesses we
- are going to swear in. So those wishing to testify on this docket is Mr. Swartz and if you are on
- the line and you could introduce those that will be testifying.
- 20 Mark Swartz: Mr. Chairman, this is Mark Swartz. I am currently in my Charleston office and
- 21 I'm going to be having questions for Kelli Berry, who is going to be testifying I think from her
- office. Kelli, will you announce yourself and tell us where you are?
- 23 **Kelli Berry**: This is Kelli Berry representing Pocahontas Gas LLC and I'm testifying from our
- 24 office in Claypool Hill, Virginia.
- 25 **Bradley Lambert**: Thank you Mr. Swartz, also we need to know that this testimony is occurring
- 26 with the consent of all the participants to the proceeding. Are there any objections to the way we
- are participating in this call? If there are any objections, please let us know at this time and if not,
- 28 Mr. Swartz you can proceed as soon as Ms. Gilmer swears in Ms. Berry.
- 29 **Mark Swartz**: Okay.
- 30 **Sarah Gilmer**: Ms. Berry?
- 31 **Kelli Berry**: Yes.
- 32 **Sarah Gilmer**: Do you swear or affirm that your testimony is the truth, the whole truth and
- 33 nothing but the truth?

- 1 Kelli Berry: I do.
- 2 **Sarah Gilmer**: Thank you.
- 3 **Bradley Lambert**: Okay, thank you Mr. Swartz, you may begin.
- 4 Mark Swartz: Okay, Kelli could you state your name for us again, please.
- 5 **Kelli Berry**: Kelli Berry.
- 6 Mark Swartz: and you're testifying on behalf of whom?
- 7 **Kelli Berry**: Pocahontas Gas, LLC.
- 8 Mark Swartz: Pocahontas Gas, LLC is the applicant with regard to a re-pooling of Unit 04,
- 9 correct?
- 10 Kelli Berry: Yes.
- 11 **Mark Swartz**: What are reasons for this re-pooling application?
- 12 **Kelli Berry**: Because of property line changes affected the acres within the unit.
- 13 Mark Swartz: We are also, so I think, looking at the application. We're also seeking to add
- production under Oakwood II from a long wall panel that's been isolated.
- 15 **Kelli Berry**: That's correct.
- 16 Mark Swartz: What did you do to notify people that are respondents interested in this unit that
- we were going to have a hearing?
- 18 **Kelli Berry**: We attempted to mail copies of the petition to all respondents as well as publishing
- in the Virginia Mountaineer.
- 20 Mark Swartz: Okay, as you customarily do whenever you have a petition, correct?
- 21 Kelli Berry: Yes.
- 22 Mark Swartz: Have you listed all of the respondents in both paragraph 7 of the application and
- 23 in your notice?
- 24 Kelli Berry: Yes.
- 25 Mark Swartz: Do you want to add any respondents today?
- 26 <u>Kelli Berry</u>: No.
- 27 <u>Mark Swartz</u>: Do you want to dismiss any?

- 1 Kelli Berry: No.
- 2 Mark Swartz: You have provided a revised plat which is I believe is at pdf page 7?
- 3 **Kelli Berry**: Yes.
- 4 Mark Swartz: and that shows an 80-acre Oakwood unit and I think the plat was revised. The
- 5 revision is dated January 20, 2020, is that correct?
- 6 **Kelli Berry**: That's correct.
- 7 Mark Swartz: Then we have; I'm just working through here, there are tract ID's and so forth,
- 8 you have Exhibit B which list all of the people in the Unit, both leased and pooled, correct?
- 9 **Kelli Berry**: That's correct.
- 10 Mark Swartz: We have Exhibit B3 and that's a list again of all the respondents that you're
- seeking to re-pool?
- 12 **Kelli Berry**: That's correct.
- Mark Swartz: In Exhibit B3, just to point this out to the board, the last column in my pdf shows
- the heading, the number is kind of in purple but the last column in a calculation of the division of
- interest in the long wall panel that we're talking about for each of the owners, correct?
- 16 **Kelli Berry**: Yes.
- 17 Mark Swartz: and that's going to be the measure of their royalty and it's also going to be the
- 18 measure of the way in which they would calculate the dollars that they would be required to pay
- in the event that they wanted to participate in this unit?
- 20 Kelli Berry: Yes.
- 21 Mark Swartz: That would be the percentage they would apply to the dollar amount that we will
- be talking about shortly, correct?
- 23 **Kelli Berry**: That's correct.
- 24 Mark Swartz: Working further through the application at pdf pages 45 and 46, you've provided
- your cost estimates, correct?
- 26 **Kelli Berry**: Yes.
- 27 Mark Swartz: and those are, although the panel; this panel does not actually have any wells.
- 28 Strike that. There are no wells in the panel that are also in Unit 04, correct?
- 29 **Kelli Berry**: That's correct.

- 1 Mark Swartz: So the production from the panel is being obtained through two wells that are
- 2 located in the panel in other units but the production is being allocated in part to Unit 04?
- 3 **Kelli Berry**: That's correct.
- 4 Mark Swartz: If we go to the next page, which is pdf page 47, you've got an estimate of an
- 5 allowable cost by panel and that does allocate the dollars for the two wells but it also shows the
- 6 percentage of the production from the entire panel and how it's being allocated to the various
- 7 units affected by the panel, right?
- 8 **Kelli Berry**: That's correct.
- 9 Mark Swartz: What's the percentage of the panel production that's being allocated to Unit 04?
- 10 **Kelli Berry**: That is 6.6751%.
- 11 Mark Swartz: and that's the way the dollars are allocated or the revenue to allocate and then the
- division of interest that we talked about a little while ago is applied to that to calculate the
- revenue?
- 14 Kelli Berry: Correct.
- 15 Mark Swartz: and it is also the same percentage you have used to allocate the cost of the two
- wells to Unit 04?
- 17 Kelli Berry: Yes.
- 18 Mark Swartz: and what is the allocated cost for 04?
- 19 **Kelli Berry**: \$42,048.34.
- 20 Mark Swartz: The next exhibit is Exhibit E, which is revised to reflect the re-pooling
- 21 percentages, correct?
- 22 Kelli Berry: Yes.
- 23 Mark Swartz: and it's also revised to reflect the panel production, the division of interest?
- 24 Kelli Berry: Yes.
- 25 <u>Mark Swartz</u>: Then we've got what I assume the next exhibit would be EE and that's how
- you're going to pay people that is not subject to escrow going forward, if this is approved?
- 27 **Kelli Berry**: Yes.
- 28 Mark Swartz: Then, we have also furnished some mapping, which I think Sarah distributed to
- 29 the Board members perhaps by email yesterday, right?

- 1 Kelli Berry: Yes.
- 2 Mark Swartz: In the mapping, there is actually three pages that I think have found their way to
- 3 the Board but there's one page which at the top says, please and there's a symbol for a number
- 4 and then it's got 300 and if the Board Members have that available, that map shows a portion of
- 5 the mine works, correct?
- 6 Kelli Berry: Yes.
- 7 Mark Swartz: and the 04 unit is in the north, well in the top right hand corner of that map?
- 8 **Kelli Berry**: Yes.
- 9 Mark Swartz: It shows that the 04 intersects the panel; there's a line that runs down the middle
- of that panel but that the two producing wells are just slightly to the west of that line in units to
- 11 the west?
- 12 Kelli Berry: Yes.
- 13 Mark Swartz: and that is basically the base map that you used to calculate the percentages
- which is also one of the three maps where you actually have it's a map just of the that long wall
- panel that we were talking about and allocating the percentages to the various units affected by
- the panel?
- 17 Kelli Berry: Yes.
- 18 Mark Swartz: Okay and I think, well I think that's it for this unit. Mr. Chairman, we're
- completed unless there might be some questions, but we're done our direct.
- 20 **Bradley Lambert**: Any questions from the Board? This is Bradley, the Chairman. Any
- 21 questions from the Board? [No response]. Do you have anything further Mr. Swartz?
- 22 Mark Swartz: That would be it.
- 23 **Bradley Lambert**: Do I have a motion?
- 24 **Donnie Rife**: Donnie Rife making a motion for approval.
- 25 **Bradley Lambert**: Do I have a second?
- 26 <u>Bill Harris</u>: Second from Bill Harris.
- 27 **Bradley Lambert**: Ms. Ketron, would you poll the Board for a vote, please.
- 28 **Sally Ketron**: Yes, Bradley Lambert?
- 29 **Bradley Lambert**: Yes.

- 1 **Sally Ketron**: Bill Harris?
- 2 Bill Harris: Yes.
- 3 **Sally Ketron**: Donnie Rife?
- 4 **Donnie Rife**: Yes.
- 5 <u>Sally Ketron</u>: Mary Quillen? [No response] I couldn't hear you Mary?
- 6 **Mary Quillen**: Yes.
- 7 **Sally Ketron**: Rita Surratt?
- 8 Rita Surratt: Yes.
- 9 **Sally Ketron**: and Donnie Ratliff?
- 10 **Donnie Ratliff**: Yes.

11 <u>ITEM NUMBER 3</u>

- 12 **Bradley Lambert**: Thank you board members, that's approved and thank you Mr. Swartz. Now
- we're moving on to petition number three [3]. It's a petition from Pocahontas Gas LLC, for re-
- pooling under Oakwood Coalbed Methane Gas Field I. Unit Y35. Docket Number VGOB-97-
- 15 0916-0601-03. All parties wishing to testify, please come forward and introduce yourselves,
- 16 please.
- 17 Mark Swartz: This is Mark Swartz. I'm appearing as counsel
- for the applicant and I'll be asking for testimony from Kelli Berry. Kelli, you want to chime in?
- 19 <u>Kelli Berry</u>: This is Kelli Berry representing Pocahontas Gas, LLC, from our office in Claypool
- 20 Hill, Virginia.
- 21 **Bradley Lambert**: Are there any objections to the testimony being taken over this conference
- 22 call?
- 23 Mark Swartz: There is not.
- 24 **Bradley Lambert**: Thank you Mr. Swartz, you may proceed.
- 25 Mark Swartz: Kelli, I'm just going to remind you that you are still under oath, okay?
- 26 **Kelli Berry**: Yes.
- 27 Mark Swartz: Would you state your name one more time?

- 1 Kelli Berry: Kelli Berry.
- 2 Mark Swartz: and you're appearing on behalf of the applicant Pocahontas Gas Company, LLC.
- 3 Is that correct?
- 4 **Kelli Berry**: That's correct.
- 5 Mark Swartz: and this is another application to re-pool and this pertains to Unit Y35, which is
- 6 also with the Oakwood Field. Correct?
- 7 **Kelli Berry**: That's correct.
- 8 Mark Swartz: and the reasons for this re-pooling are what?
- 9 **Kelli Berry**: Property line changes which affects the acreage in the unit.
- 10 Mark Swartz: and I think those property lines issues are basically in the Northwest corner of the
- unit, is that right?
- 12 **Kelli Berry**: Yes.
- 13 Mark Swartz: and we're also requesting a third well?
- 14 Kelli Berry: Yes.
- 15 Mark Swartz: and what's the basis or reason behind that request?
- 16 **Kelli Berry**: A third well has been proposed to be drilled within the unit has been requested by
- the Coal Company.
- 18 Mark Swartz: Okay, so it's a coal operation de-gas safety issue?
- 19 **Kelli Berry**: Yes.
- 20 Mark Swartz: and we've shown all three wells, I think on the plat. Let's go to that for a
- 21 moment. The plat is at pdf page 5 and you've got three wells, two of which are not in the
- 22 window and one is in the window. Which of the wells is the proposed third well?
- 23 Kelli Berry: Y35E.
- 24 Mark Swartz: I think toward the end of this application, there's also a partial land mine map
- 25 that shows the location of that in a long wall panel?
- 26 **Kelli Berry**: Yes.
- 27 Mark Swartz: Okay. Let's go to the beginning questions again. Did you give notice to the
- respondents about this hearing?

- 1 **Kelli Berry**: Yes, we sent a copy of the petition to each respondent as well as publishing in the
- 2 Virginia Mountaineer.
- 3 Mark Swartz: Okay, and you've listed the respondents in your application, in your notice and
- 4 also in Exhibit B3 and let me go to that. I think their listed in paragraph 7. Do you want to add
- 5 any respondents to the list?
- 6 Kelli Berry: No.
- 7 Mark Swartz: Do you want dismiss any?
- 8 **Kelli Berry**: No.
- 9 Mark Swartz: Okay. You've identified the permits numbers for the existing two wells in your
- 10 application, correct?
- 11 **Kelli Berry**: Yes.
- Mark Swartz: Okay, as we mentioned earlier, we've got Exhibit B, which list everybody in the
- unit and then you're Exhibit B3, which is at pdf page 10 that list the unleased owners and
- claimants that we're seeking to re-pool?
- 15 Kelli Berry: Yes.
- 16 Mark Swartz: and you've provided, I think at pages 11, 12 and 13 of the pdf 3 well cost
- 17 estimates?
- 18 **Kelli Berry**: Yes.
- 19 Mark Swartz: You've got Exhibit E, which indicates there's still going to be an escrow
- 20 requirement?
- 21 Kelli Berry: Yes.
- 22 Mark Swartz: and the acres still in escrow in Exhibit E; if this application is approved, are how
- 23 many acres?
- 24 **Kelli Berry**: 0.07 acres.
- 25 Mark Swartz: Okay, so we're almost done with solving escrow issues, right?
- 26 **Kelli Berry**: Yes.
- 27 Mark Swartz: Then you've got an Exhibit EE, which is would be the going forward of how you
- 28 pay?
- 29 **Kelli Berry**: Yes.

- 1 Mark Swartz: I think, on pdf page 17 is actually a letter to Mr. Cooper about the proposed
- 2 additional well followed by a map showing what 35E is at the location of the panel?
- **Kelli Berry**: Yes.
- 4 Mark Swartz: Okay, I think that's all I have on this one Mr. Chairman.
- **Bradley Lambert**: Are there any questions from the Board? [No response] Do you have
- 6 anything further Mr. Swartz?
- 7 Mark Swartz: I do not.
- **Bradley Lambert**: Do I have a motion?
- **Donnie Rife**: Motion to approve, Donnie Rife.
- **<u>Bill Harris</u>**: Bill Harris, I second that.
- **Bradley Lambert**: I have a motion and I have a second. Are there any further discussions? [No
- response] Ms. Ketron, would you poll the Board for a vote please.
- **Sally Ketron**: Okay, Bradley Lambert?
- **Bradley Lambert**: Yes.
- **Sally Ketron**: Bill Harris?
- 16 Bill Harris: Yes.
- **Sally Ketron:** Donnie Rife?
- **Donnie Rife**: Yes.
- **Sally Ketron**: Mary Quillen?
- **Mary Quillen**: Yes.
- **Sally Ketron**: Rita Surratt?
- **Rita Surratt**: Yes.
- **Sally Ketron**: and Donnie Ratliff?
- **Donnie Ratliff**: Yes.
- **Bradley Lambert**: Okay, thank you Mr. Swartz. That one has been approved.

ITEM NUMBER 4

- 2 **Bradley Lambert**: Now calling Docket Item Number four [4] is a petition from Pocahontas Gas
- 3 LLC, for re-pooling under Nora Coalbed Methane Gas Field I. Unit BG-98. Docket Number
- 4 VGOB 06-0919-1714-02. All parties wishing to testify on this docket item, please come forward
- 5 and state your name for the record.

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- 6 Mark Swartz: Mark Swartz and Kelli Berry. Pocahontas Gas LLC is the applicant and we
- 7 consent to doing this hearing by telephone. Just want to chime in Kelli?
- 8 **Kelli Berry**: Yes, Kelli Berry.
- 9 Shea Cook: This is Shea Cook on behalf of Carson Austin and Keisha Austin.
- 10 **Bradley Lambert**: I'm sorry Shea, I got your name but I didn't get who you were representing?
- 11 Shea Cook: Okay, yes. Carson Austin and Keisha Austin. We had filed with the Oil and Gas
- Board and also forwarded a copy of Jerry Scott correspondence and attached that is dated March
- 13 11, 2020 that contained two orders that I think that are relative to the petition.
- 14 **Bradley Lambert**: Okay, thank you Mr. Cook.
- 15 **Shea Cook**: Yes, sir.
- 16 **Bradley Lambert**: Are you going to be providing testimony as well?
- 17 **Shea Cook:** No, there's not testimony to be provided. It's just argument. In my argument I'm
- not sure I'm kind of only going by what's on the docket. I had filed, I had asked for the order of
- 19 escheatment entered August 5, 2019 relative to VGOB 07-0320-1898-03 be vacated and we also
- 20 received a petition for escheatment relative to this particular unit that's on the docket and my
- 21 argument is that the Oil and Gas Board doesn't have jurisdiction to enter given the existing 2015
- order which was attached.
- 23 **Bradley Lambert**: Okay, thank you Mr. Cook. Let's proceed with testimony from Mr. Swartz
- and then we'll turn to you when Mr. Swartz gets finished with his presentation.
- 25 **Shea Cook**: Yes, sir. Thank you.
- 26 **Bradley Lambert**: You may proceed Mr. Swartz.
- 27 <u>Mark Swartz</u>: I would like to call Kelli Berry. Kelli, would you state your name again, please.
- 28 **Kelli Berry**: Kelli Berry.
- 29 **Mark Swartz**: and who are you testifying on behalf of today?
- 30 Kelli Berry: Pocahontas Gas, LLC.

- 1 Mark Swartz: and this pertains to what unit?
- 2 **Kelli Berry**: Unit BG-98.
- 3 Mark Swartz: This is another re-pooling?
- 4 Kelli Berry: Yes.
- 5 Mark Swartz: Okay, and what is the reason for this being re-pooled?
- 6 **Kelli Berry**: This unit, we are requesting to be re-pooled based on the final order in case number
- 7 16-254 which declared the heirs of Mary Leftwich to be the owners of the oil and gas.
- 8 Mark Swartz: and it also determined that Carson Austin was not an owner?
- 9 **Kelli Berry**: Yes.
- 10 Mark Swartz: Okay, and to illustrate what's going on here in this application, let's go and we'll
- come back to some basic questions but let's go to pdf page, let me see if I can find this. Okay, if
- we go to pdf page 17 that is an Exhibit B-2. An Exhibit B-2 is how we identify owners that we
- might be adding or people that we have determined are not an owner and we're disbursing, is
- that why you've included the Exhibit B-2 here?
- 15 **Kelli Berry**: That's correct.
- 16 Mark Swartz: Okay, and who is going away as an owner in Exhibit B-2?
- 17 <u>Kelli Berry</u>: Carson Austin.
- 18 **Mark Swartz**: and why is that?
- 19 **Kelli Berry**: Because the heirs of Mary Leftwich were the prevailing defendants under case
- 20 number 16-254.
- 21 Mark Swartz: and that order, I believe was entered July 25, 2018. Mr. Cook signed off on that
- order but he objected to it, but it was entered never the less by Judge Johnson, correct?
- 23 Kelli Berry: Correct.
- 24 Mark Swartz: To your knowledge, has that order been appealed and/or reversed on appeal?
- 25 **Kelli Berry**: No.
- 26 **Mark Swartz**: It still stands?
- 27 Kelli Berry: Yes.
- 28 Mark Swartz: and that's the sole reason why we are moving to re-pool here?

- 1 Kelli Berry: That's correct.
- 2 Mark Swartz: In Exhibit B-2, when Mr. Austin is dropped as an owner because of a court case.
- 3 You've done got a very lengthy list of people the Leftwich heirs that you are adding, correct?
- 4 **Kelli Berry**: That's correct.
- 5 Mark Swartz: Okay, no going back to the preface questions here. What did you do to tell people
- 6 that we were going to have a hearing about this unit today?
- 7 **Kelli Berry**: We mailed a copy of the petition to all respondents as well as publishing in the
- 8 Virginia Mountaineer.
- 9 Mark Swartz: and except for the people that you've identified in the Exhibit B-2 that we've just
- talked about, do you want to dismiss anybody else besides Mr. Austin today?
- 11 Kelli Berry: No.
- 12 Mark Swartz: Do you want to add anyone besides the Leftwich heirs that you've identified in
- the B-2 today?
- 14 Kelli Berry: No.
- 15 Mark Swartz: Let's go... and we've provided a plat which I think it's dated a while ago because
- it was probably revised on prior trip to the Board. Let me look at the date here. Yea, we've got a
- plat from November, 2019 that we've attached. We have an Exhibit B which list everyone in the
- unit which obviously was amended to add and subtract the people we've talked about. We have
- an Exhibit B-3, which identifies that are being pooled and re-pooled by this application. You've
- 20 got the well cost estimate from the original hearing, I believe, let me look at the date of that from
- 21 2016. That's pdf page 27 to the extent that the people are given an opportunity by the order to
- 22 participate that would be the cost, correct?
- 23 Kelli Berry: Yes.
- 24 Mark Swartz: Okay, then we've got Exhibit E which deals with Escrow requirements after if
- 25 this order is approved, correct?
- 26 **Kelli Berry**: Yes.
- 27 Mark Swartz: If we go to the end of Exhibit E, we have an indication of what's still in Escrow
- and there's quite a bit. How many acres are still in Escrow?
- 29 **Kelli Berry**: We are placing Tract 1B back into Escrow and the total acres is 29.12.
- 30 Mark Swartz: and obviously, you're going to need a new Exhibit EE in terms of the people that
- 31 we are going to be paying forward and I believe that is it Mr. Chairman.

- **Bradley Lambert**: Okay, thank you Mr. Swartz. Just hang on a second, we've had a little matter
- 2 here on this end we'll have to take care of, just one second.
- **Mark Swartz**: Okay.
- **Bradley Lambert**: Okay, sorry. I apologize for that delay there just for a moment. But I
- 5 understand that Mr. Prather, you've just been able to call in, are you on the line?
- **Bill Prather**: I'm on the line.
- **Bradley Lambert**: Okay, thank you Mr. Prather. It's good to have you.
- **Bill Prather**: Sorry, I'm late.
- **Bradley Lambert**: That's alright, technology. We have to work with it. Mr. Cook? Mr. Cook are
- you still on the line? [No response] Apparently not, okay. So anything further Mr. Swartz?
- 11 Mark Swartz: No.
- **Bradley Lambert**: Okay, do I have a motion?
- **Donnie Rife**: Donnie Rife, motion to approve.
- **Donnie Ratliff**: This is Donnie Ratliff, second.
- **Bradley Lambert**: I have a motion and I have a second, are there any further discussion? [No
- response] Ms. Ketron, would you poll the Board for a vote please.
- **Sally Ketron**: Okay, Bradley Lambert?
- **Bradley Lambert**: Yes.
- **Sally Ketron**: Bill Harris?
- 20 Bill Harris: Yes.
- 21 Sally Ketron: Bruce Prather? [No response] Bradley, do you want me to move on and then?
- 22 <u>Bradley Lambert</u>: Yes, please I think. Bruce may have missed part of that so yes, please move
- 23 on.
- **Sally Ketron**: Okay.
- **Shea Cook**: I just want to add my call got dropped.
- **Bradley Lambert**: Is that you Mr. Cook?
- **Shea Cook**: It is, I'm sorry.

- 1 **Bradley Lambert**: Okay Mr. Swartz had finished and we had a motion and a second to approve
- 2 and we're calling a roll-call on the vote, but given technology and knowing how it can mess up
- 3 sometimes.
- 4 Shea Cook: It can.
- 5 **Bradley Lambert**: Yes, let's hold off on the vote. J, are we okay with doing that and allowing
- 6 Mr. Cook to proceed?
- 7 **Jerald Hess**: That will be just fine.
- 8 **Bradley Lambert**: Okay, thank you J. Okay Mr. Cook, if you want to interject, please go ahead.
- 9 **Shea Cook**: Okay, Ms. Berry. Have you seen the order entered date in the Buchanan Circuit
- 10 Court dated April 22, 2015, that was attached to my correspondence of March 11, 2020?
- 11 **Kelli Berry**: Yes.
- Shea Cook: Does that order specifically declare that Carson Austin is the owner relative to Tract
- 13 1B of Unit VG98?
- 14 **Kelli Berry**: No, it does not.
- 15 **Shea Cook**: Does it reference that he is the owner of the gas estate as it relates to VG98?
- 16 **Kelli Berry**: The order that you are referencing shows only that Harrison Wyatt disclaimed any
- interest that it might have in the coalbed methane.
- 18 **Shea Cook**: Does not the order basically state that he is actively; Harrison Wyatt and Carson
- 19 Austin, that he is the owner of the gas estate?
- 20 **Kelli Berry**: The actual wording of the order says and I quote as I'm reading from the order, "It
- 21 is the judged order and decreed that upon the defendant Harrison Wyatt first amended motion for
- 22 judgement on file herein that the defendant Harrison Wyatt, LLC has disclaimed any interest in
- and to the CBM and accordingly is not entitled to any royalties relating to the extractions of
- coalbed methane gas by CNX Gas, LLC from the subject properties listed as items as A-E and
- 25 items K, N & O listed above and it is not a conflicting claimant to the ownership of the CBM".
- 26 **Shea Cook:** Okay, alright. Now, specifically with regards to the order that was entered in Case
- 27 16-254, that was an action brought by the Austin's themselves, is that correct?
- 28 **Kelli Berry**: Yes.
- 29 Shea Cook: and its specifically relates only to BF100 and BF101, is that correct?
- 30 **Kelli Berry**: Yes, it appears that those are the units that are described in that order.

- 1 **Shea Cook**: and this action is based specifically on that order itself, correct?
- 2 Kelli Berry: Yes.
- 3 **Shea Cook**: That would be the order entered July 25, 2018?
- 4 Kelli Berry: Yes.
- 5 **Shea Cook**: Does that order state that Carson Austin is not the owner of Tract 1B or Unit VG98?
- 6 Does it state that in the order?
- 7 **Kelli Berry**: That order specifically references in addition to BF100 and BF101, it states that;
- 8 I'm sorry, I'm scrolling through the order. Give me just one moment please.
- 9 **Shea Cook**: Sure.
- 10 Kelli Berry: The order references the gas estate within a 200 acre boundary, a 55 acre boundary
- and a 28 acre boundary. A two (2) acre boundary and a 21 acre boundary. This order states the
- heirs are the owners of the gas within all of those boundaries.
- 13 Shea Cook: Okay, does the order itself does not make reference to any docket numbers, unit
- numbers, tract number within the unit themselves?
- 15 **Kelli Berry**: That's correct.
- 16 **Mark Swartz**: Why would it?
- 17 **Kelli Berry**: Our mapping of the boundaries listed within the complaint are the basis upon which
- we requested this re-pooling.
- 19 **Shea Cook:** That's all the questions I have.
- 20 **Bradley Lambert**: Okay, thank you Mr. Cook. I'll have to say at this point that what you were
- 21 discussing with Ms. Berry is a civil matter in court that this Board couldn't rule upon anyway. So
- I appreciate you coming forward and filling us in. For the Board members, you don't have those
- orders in front of you but Mr. Cooper has them here but again, I reference that these are court
- 24 matters not before this Board at this time.
- 25 **Shea Cook**: To some extent, I agree with what you just stated. On the other hand, it is my
- understanding that there was a petition for recoupment for this Board today. If that's not the case,
- then I'll stand aside.
- 28 **Bradley Lambert**: I have Mr. Cooper checking on that now Mr. Cook. Could you hold just a
- 29 second?
- 30 **Shea Cook**: Thank you.

- 1 **Bradley Lambert**: Mr. Cooper, could you update us on that?
- 2 **Rick Cooper**: Ms. Berry, you may have to jump in but I'm not aware of a commitment or having
- 3 this problem with VG98? Is that correct, of not having a recoupment on this one?
- 4 **Kelli Berry**: I'm not aware of that at this point in time.
- 5 **Rick Cooper**: and we are not aware of it here at the Division of Gas and Oil either.
- 6 **Shea Cook**: Okay.
- 7 Mark Swartz: This is Mark Swartz, if there were past payments out of this unit to Mr. Austin,
- 8 he shouldn't have been paid and I don't know because there's nothing in the record here. But that
- 9 would be again an issue between Mr. Austin and the Operator that they would have to address in
- 10 other units, not this one.
- 11 **Shea Cook**: Well I disagree.
- 12 Mark Swartz: This is a decision that he's not going to be paid going forward.
- 13 Shea Cook: Regardless of what he's entitled to, he's entitled to due process. The payments that
- were made to him specifically was payment out of the escrow were approved by this Board and
- this Board owes him due process, the Operator owes him due process and the petitions for
- recoupment or order of recoupment...
- 17 Mark Swartz: There's no order that it is going to result from this application that addresses
- 18 recoupment, one way or the other. Plus he had notice of this hearing, your appearing. How can
- this be a due process issue?
- 20 **Shea Cook**: It is my understanding that there was an order of recoupment dated August 5, 2019
- 21 at least relative to 07-1320-1898-03.
- 22 **Bradley Lambert**: This is Bradley again. Mr. Cook the docket number you just read is not this
- 23 docket number and from what I'm understanding in reading the docket to clear it up, this is not a
- 24 petition a recoupment.
- 25 <u>Mark Swartz</u>: Correct.
- 26 **Shea Cook**: *inaudible*
- 27 **Bradley Lambert**: I'm sorry Mr. Cook?
- 28 **Shea Cook**: No, I was going to defer to Mark.
- 29 Mark Swartz: This is Mark Swartz again, you can tell from this docket number that this unit has
- 30 never been before the Board since it was originally pooled. There's no dash after the 4230. So

- there couldn't be a recoupment order or some other random order with regard to this. This is the
- 2 first time we've been here.
- 3 Shea Cook: As I'm understanding it, CNX filed a petition for recoupment relative to this docket
- 4 number.
- 5 Mark Swartz: I think its news to us.
- **Shea Cook**: Okay.
- **Bradley Lambert**: Ms. Berry, have you filed a petition for recoupment in this docket item?
- **<u>Kelli Berry</u>**: No, the only petition we have filed regarding docket item 1714-02 is the re-pooling,
- 9 which was heard before you today.
- **Shea Cook**: Okay.
- **Bradley Lambert**: Thank you Ms. Berry. Are there any questions from the Board pertaining to
- this matter? [No response] Okay, thanks. I've already called for a motion and we have a second
- and Ms. Ketron you are polling the Board, would you start over with your poll please?
- **Sally Ketron**: Sure. Bradley Lambert?
- **Bradley Lambert**: Yes.
- **Sally Ketron**: Bill Harris?
- **Bill Harris**: Yes.
- **Sally Ketron**: Bruce, would you like to vote? [No response] Okay, Donnie Rife?
- **Donnie Rife**: Yes.
- **Sally Ketron**: Mary Quillen?
- 21 Mary Quillen: Yes.
- **Sally Ketron**: Rita Surratt?
- **Rita Surratt**: Yes.
- **Sally Ketron**: and Donnie Ratliff?
- **Donnie Ratliff**: Yes.
- **Bradley Lambert**: Thank you Board members. Thank you Mr. Swartz, that one has been
- 27 approved.

ITEM NUMBER 5

- 2 **Bradley Lambert**: Now we're calling Docket Item Number five [5] is a petition from
- 3 Pocahontas Gas, LLC, for pooling under Oakwood Coalbed Methane Gas Field I. Unit CC35.
- 4 Docket Number VGOB 20-0421-4230. All parties wishing to testify, please come forward.
- 5 Mark Swartz: Mark Swartz and Kelli Berry. We consent and the applicant consents to doing
- 6 this by phone.

1

- 7 **Bradley Lambert**: Thank you Mr. Swartz. Anyone from the public? [No response] You may
- 8 begin Mr. Swartz.
- 9 Mark Swartz: Thank you. Kelli could you state your name one more time.
- 10 **Kelli Berry**: Kelli Berry.
- 11 Mark Swartz: Who are you appearing on behalf of today?
- 12 <u>Kelli Berry</u>: Pocahontas Gas, LLC.
- 13 Mark Swartz: and this is a pooling as opposed to a re-pooling, correct?
- 14 **Kelli Berry**: That's correct.
- 15 Mark Swartz: Okay, was this unit a volunteer unit in the past?
- 16 **Kelli Berry**: Yes.
- 17 Mark Swartz: and then what happen that has caused you to come forward to force pool this
- 18 unit?
- 19 **Kelli Berry**: Review of title in the process of submitting a request for an additional well to be
- 20 permitted with the unit revealed that CNX had not previously purchased 100% of the property
- 21 from the Grandville *inaudible* heirs. Therefore; the unit needed to be pooled in order to be
- offer an election to those with an outstanding interest in that property.
- 23 Mark Swartz: What tracts does those folks have a partial interest in?
- 24 **Kelli Berry**: That would be Tract 1A, 1B and 3.
- 25 Mark Swartz: Okay, and what did you do to inform the folks that you're seeking to pool today
- 26 that we would be having a Hearing?
- 27 **Kelli Berry**: We mailed a copy of the petition to all respondents as well as publishing in the
- 28 Virginia Mountaineer.

- 1 Mark Swartz: Have you listed the respondents that you're seeking to pool in the Notice of
- 2 Hearing, paragraph 7 of the application and also in Exhibit B3?
- 3 **Kelli Berry**: Yes.
- 4 <u>Mark Swartz</u>: Do you want to add any respondents today?
- 5 **Kelli Berry**: No.
- 6 Mark Swartz: Do you want to dismiss any of these folks?
- 7 **Kelli Berry**: No.
- 8 Mark Swartz: We are talking about how many wells in this unit?
- 9 <u>Kelli Berry</u>: There are currently two [2] wells that are drilled in the unit and a third well is being
- 10 requested.
- 11 Mark Swartz: So in addition to pool the outstanding interest in the partial interest in the three
- 12 [3] tracts that we just talked about, your intention is to also add a third well to the unit, correct?
- 13 **Kelli Berry**: Correct.
- 14 Mark Swartz: and why are you adding or asking for the third well?
- 15 **Kelli Berry**: The coal company has asked us to drill an additional well in the unit.
- 16 Mark Swartz: and again as we have seen this before today, a request to add to de-gas capability
- in advance of long-wall mining?
- 18 Kelli Berry: Yes.
- 19 **Mark Swartz**: and you've provided a plat, correct?
- 20 Kelli Berry: Yes.
- 21 Mark Swartz: and you've showed the locations of the two [2] existing wells and the proposed
- 22 well?
- 23 **Kelli Berry**: Yes.
- 24 Mark Swartz: Two of the three wells are actually in the window?
- 25 **Kelli Berry:** Yes.
- 26 Mark Swartz: and this is what kind of a unit, what field?
- 27 **Kelli Berry**: This is in the Oakwood I field.

- 1 Mark Swartz: You've got a March 25th, 2020 plat?
- 2 Kelli Berry: Yes.
- 3 Mark Swartz: You've provided an Exhibit B3 where you list the respondents and at the end of
- 4 that, could you tell the Board the acreage that was missed that is now being pooled. How many
- 5 acres?
- 6 **Kelli Berry**: 0.1699 acres.
- 7 Mark Swartz: Okay. You've provided cost data for the three wells, correct?
- 8 **Kelli Berry**: That's correct.
- 9 Mark Swartz: and you've also provided a map with regard to the projections and a location on
- that map of the CC35B Well in the *inaudible* South Development, correct?
- 11 Kelli Berry: Correct.
- 12 Mark Swartz: and a copy of your letter to Mr. Cooper about that?
- 13 Kelli Berry: Yes.
- 14 Mark Swartz: and I've got two opinion questions for you because this is actually a pooling.
- 15 First of all, if the Board approves this pooling application, given your updated title work, will the
- 16 combination of the pooling order; pooling the respondents that we've identified and the leases
- and acquisitions that the applicant has made, will that in your opinion protect the correlative
- rights of all owners of CBM of this unit?
- 19 Kelli Berry: Yes.
- 20 Mark Swartz: and is the drilling of three wells and the allocation of production from these wells
- 21 to the royalty owners both a reasonable development of coalbed methane resource but also a
- reasonable way to degas the mining?
- 23 Kelli Berry: Yes.
- 24 Mark Swartz: That's all I have Mr. Lambert.
- 25 **Bradley Lambert**: Are there any questions from the Board? [No response] Do you have
- anything further Mr. Swartz?
- 27 Mark Swartz: I do not.
- 28 **Bradley Lambert**: Do I have a motion?
- 29 **<u>Donnie Rife</u>**: Donnie Rife, motion to approve.

- 1 Bill Harris: Bill Harris, I'll second.
- 2 **Bradley Lambert**: I have a motion and I have a second. Any further discussion? [No response]
- 3 Ms. Ketron, would you poll the Board for the vote, please?
- 4 **Sally Ketron**: Okay, excuse me. Butch Lambert?
- 5 **Bradley Lambert**: Yes.
- 6 **Sally Ketron**: Bill Harris?
- 7 **Bill Harris**: Yes.
- 8 Sally Ketron: Bruce Prather? [No response] Bruce, we can't hear you.
- 9 **Bruce Prather**: Oh, yes.
- 10 **Sally Ketron**: Okay. Donnie Rife?
- 11 **Donnie Rife**: Yes.
- 12 **Sally Ketron**: Mary Quillen?
- 13 Mary Quillen: Yes.
- 14 **Sally Ketron**: Rita Surratt?
- 15 Rita Surratt: Yes.
- 16 **Sally Ketron**: and Donnie Ratliff?
- 17 **Donnie Ratliff**: Yes.
- 18 **Bradley Lambert**: Thank you Board members. Thank you Mr. Swartz, that one is approved.
- 19 ITEM NUMBER 6, 8, 10 & 12
- 20 **Bradley Lambert**: Okay, we're calling Docket Item Number 6 is a petition from Pocahontas
- Gas, LLC for [1] the disbursement of escrowed funds heretofore deposited with the Board's
- 22 Escrow Agent, attributable to Tract 2, as depicted upon the annexed table; and [2] authorization
- 23 to begin paying royalties directly to the parties listed in the petition. This is docket number
- VGOB 91-0430-0114-02, all parties wishing to testify please state your name for the record.
- 25 Mark Swartz: Mark Swartz and Kelli Berry and the applicant consents to proceeding by the
- telephone. Mr. Chairman, I would observed that this docket item 6 involves the same litigation
- 27 that and the reason for the disbursement that we also have in docket item 8, 10 and 12 and it

- 1 might be efficient to call those other three [3] and we can kind of do them together? So it's 6, 8,
- 2 10 and 12, sorry.
- 3 **Bradley Lambert**: Okay, so we've called docket item 6, we will also call Docket Item Number
- 4 8, a petition from Pocahontas Gas, LLC for [1] the disbursement of escrowed funds heretofore
- 5 deposited with the Board's Escrow Agent, attributable to Tract 6, as depicted upon the annexed
- 6 table; and [2] authorization to begin paying royalties directly to the parties listed in the petition.
- 7 Docket number VGOB 01-0821-0918-02. We're also calling docket item 10, a petition from
- 8 Pocahontas Gas LLC for [1] the disbursement of escrow funds heretofore deposited with the
- 9 Board's Escrow Agent, attributable to Tract 5, as depicted upon the annexed table; and [2]
- authorization to begin paying royalties directly to the parties listed in the petition. Docket
- number VGOB 02-0416-1020-01. We're also calling docket items number 12, a petition from
- Pocahontas Gas LLC for [1] the disbursement of escrowed funds heretofore deposited with the
- Board's Escrow Agent, attributable to Tract 3 as depicted upon the annexed table and number [2]
- royalties to begin paying, I'm sorry. The Royalties are currently being paid under items listed
- and this is also docket number VGOB-05-0816-1491-04. You may proceed Mr. Swartz.
- 16 Mark Swartz: Thank you. Kelli, would you state your name for us again?
- 17 **Kelli Berry**: Kelli Berry.
- Mark Swartz: and is it in fact the case that docket items 6, 8, 10 and 12 have all been filed
- because of the outcome of the same lawsuit?
- 20 **Kelli Berry**: That's correct.
- 21 Mark Swartz: Let's start with item 6, Z8 then we can accomplish some things that apply to all
- of the units and that's something in particular Z8 and then we can kind of move through the
- pieces of the other ones that we need to talk about. But these are all requests for disbursements,
- 24 correct?
- 25 **Kelli Berry**: Yes.
- 26 Mark Swartz: and authorizations of direct pay in the future and lastly to the extent that the coal
- owners claims that have not been previously dismissed, we are seeking dismissal of those?
- 28 **Kelli Berry**: Yes.
- 29 Mark Swartz: Okay, and you are appearing on behalf of what company today?
- 30 Kelli Berry: Pocahontas Gas, LLC.
- 31 Mark Swartz: Okay, did you mail notice all of the folks that are, if these orders or these
- 32 petitions are approved, all of the folks that will receive a disbursement?

- 1 Kelli Berry: Yes.
- 2 **Mark Swartz**: and when you mailed, what did you send them?
- 3 <u>**Kelli Berry**</u>: A copy of the petition.
- 4 Mark Swartz: and it's exhibits?
- 5 Kelli Berry: Yes.
- 6 Mark Swartz: Okay, with regard Z8. You got a paragraph 5 of the petition, you tell us what the
- 7 basis for *inaudible*. Tell the Board what the reason is?
- 8 **Kelli Berry**: That H-W Financial LLC, is entitled to 100% of the CBM royalties awarded under
- 9 Case #CL12-736 opinion dated December 9, 2019.
- 10 Mark Swartz: and that same court case applies to docket items; well does that same court case
- apply to docket item 6, 8, 10 and 12 today? [No response] Did I cut out Kelli? Hello?
- 12 **Bradley Lambert**: We can hear you Mark, Kelli must have dropped off.
- 13 Mark Swartz: Okay, hopefully she'll call back in. Hopefully we'll hear a beep here.
- 14 **Bradley Lambert**: Okay folks while we are waiting on Ms. Berry to try to call back in, let's take
- just a quick 5 minute break and then we'll keep the phones on. Don't anybody hang up but keep
- your phone on and we'll just take a 5 minute break. There she is.
- 17 Mark Swartz: There she is.
- 18 **Bradley Lambert**: There she is, okay. We're good to go.
- 19 Mark Swartz: Kelli?
- 20 **Kelli Berry**: My phone still showed I was connected and I don't know why you couldn't hear
- 21 me.
- 22 Mark Swartz: Do you want to take a break?
- 23 **Bradley Lambert**: Well, let's go ahead since we're in the middle of this one Mr. Swartz. Let's
- 24 go ahead and finish this one.
- 25 Mark Swartz: Okay, Kelli. Don't hang up, Okay.
- **Kelli Berry**: Before, I'm not sure what happened. Our conference call still showed on the call
- and I could hear everybody else.

- 1 Mark Swartz: Okay, we can hear you loud and clear now. So let's just leave everything the way
- 2 it is and we'll rejoin each other in a couple minutes, I gather?
- 3 <u>Bradley Lambert</u>: No, let's go ahead and finish this one out Mark since we got her back. Let's
- 4 do this one.
- 5 Mark Swartz: Okay. Fair enough. Kelli, when we lost the ability to hear you, you had just
- 6 indicated that at least with regard to Docket Item Number 6 the relevant case that was decided
- 7 was case number CL12-736, do you remember that?
- 8 Kelli Berry: Yes.
- 9 Mark Swartz: Okay, and my question in which we did not get an answer to, was is the same
- opinion, the December 9, 2019 opinion that applies to not only to item 6 but also item 8 today,
- 11 item 10 and item 12?
- 12 **Kelli Berry**: That's correct.
- 13 Mark Swartz: Now let's continue to work through this particular application. Now you've given
- us a Table 1 which is at page 4? Right?
- 15 **Kelli Berry**: That's correct.
- Mark Swartz: and this is a pretty straight forward situation, you've indicated you got 100% of
- the escrow funds on deposit with regard to this tract should be paid to H-W Financial LLC at the
- address you've provided?
- 19 **Kelli Berry**: Yes.
- 20 Mark Swartz: and then at Exhibit B2, you've given us a list of people to be dismissed because
- of the court case?
- 22 **Kelli Berry**: Yes.
- 23 Mark Swartz: Then you've got a revised Exhibit E, which indicates as a result of the court case
- 24 we don't need to escrow anymore, this payment will zero out the escrow account?
- 25 **Kelli Berry**: That's correct.
- Mark Swartz: Then you've got a revised Exhibit EE for the entire unit which is the payment
- 27 process going forward?
- 28 **Kelli Berry**: Yes.
- 29 Mark Swartz: and you've done an Exhibit J which is the escrow account reconciliation?
- 30 **Kelli Berry**: Yes

- 1 Mark Swartz: and the process for that is to try to locate all of the royalty payments that the
- 2 operators have made and then find a corresponding deposit, correct?
- 3 Kelli Berry: Yes.
- 4 Mark Swartz: and in this instance you've got indicated on the first page of Exhibit J at least the
- 5 first six or eight lines there are no bank records available to you to compare?
- 6 **Kelli Berry**: That's correct.
- 7 Mark Swartz: and then the bank records pick up appear to pick up as of October of 1996,
- 8 correct?
- 9 **Kelli Berry**: Yes.
- 10 Mark Swartz: and from that point forward, you have tried to locate the corresponding deposits
- and if we go to page pdf page 10 you've got some of deposits and checks in sort of darker
- outlines, correct?
- 13 **Kelli Berry**: Yes.
- 14 Mark Swartz: and what is that meant to you; what do you indicate by that or what do you mean
- 15 by that?
- 16 **Kelli Berry**: The deposit information on the left that is surrounded by a dark bracket color
- matches up with a deposit amount reflected by the bank.
- 18 Mark Swartz: Okay, so you've been able to match those, so what are you telling us when you
- 19 have boxes highlighted in yellow?
- 20 **Kelli Berry**: That we cannot match a deposit with the bank with our deposit information.
- 21 Mark Swartz: Okay. There aren't a lot of those but there are definitely several of them as we
- work through Exhibit J, correct?
- 23 Kelli Berry: Yes.
- 24 Mark Swartz: Then on the last page of Exhibit J, you've done some math at the bottom?
- 25 **Kelli Berry**: Yes.
- 26 Mark Swartz: Is that an effort on your part to compare a calculation of what you think the
- balance might be or should be based on your documentation and then you compare that to the
- bank balance as of December, 2019, right?
- 29 Kelli Berry: Yes.

- 1 Mark Swartz: and there's a difference here?
- 2 Kelli Berry: Yes.
- 3 Mark Swartz: How much?
- 4 **Kelli Berry**: \$636.37.
- 5 Mark Swartz: Okay and in this instance, that it indicates the bank actually has that amount more
- 6 than your calculation would reflect?
- 7 **Kelli Berry**: That's correct.
- 8 Mark Swartz: and you've accounted for at least one prior disbursement?
- 9 **Kelli Berry**: Yes.
- 10 Mark Swartz: I assume it is cleared and it's been made and we don't have to wait for that?
- 11 Kelli Berry: Correct.
- 12 Mark Swartz: Okay, then the next item in this docket starting at page 15 is an actual copy of the
- order that has caused you to make these applications?
- 14 **Kelli Berry**: Yes.
- 15 Mark Swartz: and if we go to pdf page 18, there's a portion of the order which I'm just going to
- read into the record, "now therefore it is the judgement of this court that the plaintiff Harrison
- 17 Wyatt LLC is the owner of coalbed methane gas and any other gas, all of which are embraced
- within the term mineral and that said substances were included in the conveyance to plaintiffs
- processors that were in entitled of all coal and mineral." Is that the part of the order that you're
- really focused on in terms of asking for these on the one hand, these dismissals and on the other
- 21 hand, this payment out of escrow?
- 22 **Kelli Berry**: Yes.
- 23 Mark Swartz: Okay, that's all I have with regard to docket 6 Mr. Chairman and then If there are
- 24 not questions, then I would propose to move on to number 8, I have a few specific questions with
- 25 regard to that one.
- 26 **Bradley Lambert**: Are there any questions before the Board before we move on? [No response]
- 27 You may continue Mr. Swartz.
- 28 Mark Swartz: Then Kelli, if you can locate your package for number 8 and just to confirm we
- are talking about the same order again, right?
- 30 **Kelli Berry**: Yes.

- 1 Mark Swartz: If we go to table 1 here, its tract 6, correct?
- 2 Kelli Berry: Yes.
- 3 Mark Swartz: and the Escrow Agent should pay 100% of the balance on hand to H-W Financial
- 4 LLC at the address you've provided on the date the account is closed?
- 5 Kelli Berry: Yes.
- 6 Mark Swartz: Actually if we go to pdf page 8, we've got a revised Exhibit E which shows that
- 7 once this disbursement is made, we don't need escrow with regard to this unit anymore?
- 8 **Kelli Berry**: That's correct.
- 9 Mark Swartz: You've provided a revised Exhibit EE, which is the payments going forward?
- 10 **Kelli Berry**: Yes.
- 11 Mark Swartz: and you've provided an Exhibit J, which you've prepared as you testified
- moments ago in terms of comparing checks that the Operator wrote for royalties and deposits
- and you've given us that recap and you've done the math again at the end, right?
- 14 Kelli Berry: Yes.
- 15 Mark Swartz: and there's a difference between your estimate and the bank balance as of
- December, 2019 in what amount?
- 17 **Kelli Berry**: \$41.90.
- 18 Mark Swartz: and again First Bank and Trust has a little bit more than your estimate?
- 19 **Kelli Berry**: Yes.
- 20 Mark Swartz: Okay and you end up with the court order. That's all I have on Docket Item
- Number 8, Mr. Chairman.
- 22 **Bradley Lambert**: Okay Mr. Swartz. Are there any questions from the Board? [No response]
- 23 You may continue Mr. Swartz.
- 24 Mark Swartz: Let's move to number 10. Have you got your file in front of you Kelli?
- 25 <u>Kelli Berry</u>: Yes.
- 26 Mark Swartz: This is Docket Number 10, Tract 10, Unit Z7, correct?
- 27 Kelli Berry: That's correct.
- 28 Mark Swartz: Driven by the same court order we've been talking about?

- 1 Kelli Berry: Yes.
- 2 Mark Swartz: Okay and you've got a Table 1 here which is pdf page 5 and again we're looking
- at paying 100% of the escrow account balance to H-W Financial, LLC, at the address you've
- 4 provided?
- 5 **Kelli Berry**: Yes.
- 6 Mark Swartz: Then you've got the people that are being dismissed as a result of the court
- 7 decision at Exhibit B2 and you've got a revised Exhibit E which shows we don't need to have
- 8 escrow anymore?
- 9 **Kelli Berry**: Yes.
- 10 Mark Swartz: You've provided us with a payment schedule going forward, that's the revised
- 11 Exhibit EE, correct?
- 12 Kelli Berry: Correct.
- 13 Mark Swartz: Once again, you did a reconciliation in Exhibit J and you did the way you've
- testified of what you compare, correct?
- 15 **Kelli Berry**: Yes.
- 16 Mark Swartz: and at the end your math indicates what?
- 17 **Kelli Berry**: There's a small difference between our total and First Bank and Trust total.
- 18 **Mark Swartz**: In what amount?
- 19 **Kelli Berry**: \$.87.
- 20 Mark Swartz: It's in red so that means they have \$.87 less than your guess?
- 21 Kelli Berry: Correct.
- 22 Mark Swartz: Okay, same order than as the last item. That's all I have on this Docket Item
- Number 10, Mr. Chairman.
- 24 **Bradley Lambert**: Thank you Mr. Swartz. If it's okay I would like to back us up to number 8
- 25 for just a moment to ask a question.
- 26 **Mark Swartz**: Okay, we can do that.
- 27 **Bradley Lambert**: On the reconciliation?
- 28 Kelli Berry: Yes.

- 1 **Bradley Lambert**: On page 13 for the reconciliation, there's a note there with asterisk. Ms.
- 2 Berry, can you explain that note just a little bit for us.
- 3 Kelli Berry: Sure, in the course of updating the Exhibit J reconciliation. I discovered that after
- 4 the conclusion of the prior disbursement for this unit, which was the 01 disbursement, CNX
- 5 processed the disbursement order however they failed to place the First Bank and Trust account
- 6 back on direct pay following that order. So that is why there are no escrow deposits shown from
- 7 April, 2016 until December, 2019. However; I notified our royalty accounting department of this
- 8 and she confirmed with me that she had released all funds to the First Bank and Trust account
- 9 prior to this disbursement.
- 10 **Bradley Lambert**: Okay, thank you Ms. Berry.
- 11 **Kelli Berry**: That *inaudible* to what had been on hold.
- 12 **Bradley Lambert**: Yes, that makes sense and Mr. Cooper confirmed that yes that is probably
- what happen. So I apologize for backing us back but jumping forward again to number 10, are
- there any questions from the Board on item number 10 that Mr. Swartz just presented? [No
- response] Okay, thank you Mr. Swartz. You may move on to number 12.
- Mark Swartz: Okay, let me get that open here. Kelli, Item Number 12 is for unit X8, correct?
- 17 **Kelli Berry**: That's correct.
- 18 Mark Swartz: and on this one, your Table 1 is at page 5 again of the pdf, correct?
- 19 **Kelli Berry**: That's correct.
- 20 Mark Swartz: You're asking the Board to direct the Escrow Agent to pay 100% of the funds in
- 21 escrow to H-W Financial LLC at the address you have provided to close the account out?
- 22 Kelli Berry: Yes.
- 23 Mark Swartz: You've listed the people that are to be dismissed at Exhibit B2, you've given us a
- 24 revised Exhibit E showing no escrow required and you've given us a Exhibit EE, a revised
- showing how to pay going forward?
- 26 **Kelli Berry**: That's correct.
- 27 Mark Swartz: Now again, we've got an Exhibit J reconciliation. Did you prepare that the same
- 28 way?
- 29 **Kelli Berry**: Yes.
- 30 **Mark Swartz**: and what is your math at the end show?

- **Kelli Berry**: That our total agrees with the First Bank and Trust total.
- 2 <u>Mark Swartz</u>: Demonstrating that miracles do happen.
- **Kelli Berry**: Indeed.
- 4 Mark Swartz: and then the last item is the order that we've relied on and that's all I have on
- 5 item 12, Mr. Chairman.
- **Bradley Lambert**: Any questions from the Board on item 6, 8, 10 and 12? [No response] If
- 7 there are no questions, do I have a motion?
- 8 <u>Bill Harris</u>: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Bill Harris. I'll make the motion to approve the petition relative
- 9 to the docket numbers 6, 8, 10 and 12.
- **Bradley Lambert**: Thank you Mr. Harris. Do I have a second?
- **Donnie Rife**: Second, Donnie Rife.
- **Bradley Lambert**: I have a second. Are there any further discussions on 6, 8, 10 or 12? [No
- response] Ms. Ketron, would you poll the Board for a vote please?
- **Sally Ketron**: Butch Lambert?
- **Bradley Lambert**: Yes.
- **Sally Ketron**: Bill Harris?
- 17 Bill Harris: Yes.
- **Sally Ketron**: Bruce Prather?
- **Bruce Prather**: Yes.
- **Sally Ketron**: Donnie Rife?
- **Donnie Rife**: Yes.
- **Sally Ketron**: Mary Quillen?
- 23 Mary Quillen: Yes.
- **Sally Ketron**: Rita Surratt?
- 25 Rita Surratt: Yes.
- **Sally Ketron**: and Donnie Ratliff?
- **Donnie Ratliff**: Yes.

- 1 **Bradley Lambert**: Thank you Mr. Swartz, those three or four have been approved. So at this
- time, let's go ahead and take a 5 minute break. Again, don't hang up. Just leave your phones on
- 3 mute and we'll come back at 10:35.

4 <u>ITEM NUMBER 7</u>

- 5 **Bradley Lambert:** We're going to call Docket Item Number 7, a petition from Pocahontas Gas
- 6 LLC for (1) the disbursement of escrowed funds heretofore deposited with the Board's Escrow
- 7 Agent, attributable to Tracts 1C, 1E1, and 1E2, as depicted upon the annexed table; and (2)
- 8 authorization to begin paying royalties directly to the parties listed in the petition. Docket
- 9 number VGOB 99-1019-0758-03. All parties wishing to testify, please come forward and
- identify yourself. [No response] Hello, anybody there?
- 11 <u>Kelli Berry</u>: This is Kelli, I'm here. Mark, are you there?
- 12 **Bradley Lambert**: Technology, I guess. Can somebody send him a text or an email and see if he
- is okay?
- 14 **Kelli Berry**: I'm doing that right now.
- 15 **Bradley Lambert**: Are all of Board Members back?
- 16 **Donnie Rife**: I'm with you Butch.
- 17 **Bradley Lambert**: Thank you Donnie.
- 18 **<u>Bill Harris</u>**: Bill Harris.
- 19 **Rita Surratt**: I'm here.
- 20 Mary Quillen: Mary Quillen here.
- 21 **Bradley Lambert**: Okay.
- 22 **Donnie Ratliff:** Donnie Ratliff.
- 23 **Bruce Prather**: Bruce Prather here.
- 24 **Bradley Lambert**: Okay, we've got all the Board back now if we can find Mark we'll be doing
- 25 okay.
- 26 <u>Mark Swartz</u>: I'm here.
- 27 **Bradley Lambert**: There you are.
- 28 Mark Swartz: Kelli, are you back?

- 1 **Kelli Berry**: Welcome back.
- 2 <u>Mark Swartz</u>: Okay, we're good.
- 3 **Bradley Lambert**: Okay Mark. I've already read the petition but I'll read it again as a petition
- 4 from Pocahontas Gas LLC for (1) the disbursement of escrowed funds heretofore deposited with
- 5 the Board's Escrow Agent, attributable to Tracts 1C, 1E1, and 1E2, as depicted upon the
- 6 annexed table; and (2) authorization to begin paying royalties directly to the parties listed in the
- 7 petition. Docket number VGOB 99-1019-0758-03. All parties please identify yourself wishing to
- 8 testify.
- 9 Mark Swartz: Mark Swartz and Kelli Berry. On behalf of the petitioner and the consents the
- 10 proceeding by telephone.
- 11 **Bradley Lambert**: Thank you Mr. Swartz, you may proceed.
- 12 <u>Mark Swartz</u>: Kelli, your name again.
- 13 **Kelli Berry**: Kelli Berry.
- 14 <u>Mark Swartz</u>: Who are you here on behalf of?
- 15 <u>Kelli Berry</u>: Pocahontas Gas LLC.
- 16 Mark Swartz: and this is a disbursement petition again, yes?
- 17 **Kelli Berry**: Yes.
- 18 **Mark Swartz**: Pertaining to what unit?
- 19 **Kelli Berry**: Unit S53.
- 20 Mark Swartz: and the basis for the petition is what?
- 21 **Kelli Berry**: We are disbursing from escrow based on House Bill 2058 and a court order that we
- have regarding the estate of Johnny Woosley granting the ownership to Connie Burke.
- 23 Mark Swartz: and that Case Number was what?
- 24 **Kelli Berry**: CL101-18.
- 25 Mark Swartz: This is an Oakwood unit. You've attached a plat, we go to Table 1 and you're
- showing that the payment that we are requesting from the escrow account all go to Connie Burke
- at the address you've provided?
- 28 Kelli Berry: Yes.

- 1 Mark Swartz: and you have in the 2nd column from the right hand edge, you've given us 5
- 2 percentages, right?
- 3 **Kelli Berry**: Yes.
- 4 Mark Swartz: and are those the percentages that the Escrow Agent should use with regard to
- 5 each one of those tracts to calculate the dollar amount that should be paid to Connie?
- 6 **Kelli Berry**: That's correct.
- 7 Mark Swartz: and after this disbursement is made, are you also asking the Board to enter an
- 8 order allowing to pay Connie Burke. The Operator to pay Connie Burke directly rather than
- 9 continuing to escrow her funds?
- 10 **Kelli Berry**: Yes.
- 11 Mark Swartz: The next item is a B2 and based on the lawsuit, you're showing that Connie stays
- in the mix but you've got a whole list of people that we are determining that not to be owners
- that needs to be dismissed?
- 14 **Kelli Berry**: Yes.
- Mark Swartz: Okay. We've got a revised Exhibit E indicating that there is still even after these
- disbursements to Connie Burke, there's going to be an escrow requirement, right?
- 17 Kelli Berry: Correct.
- 18 Mark Swartz: At the end of that, it looks like. What will be the acres be in escrow after these
- disbursement to Ms. Burke?
- 20 Kelli Berry: 31.99 acres.
- 21 Mark Swartz: Okay. You've given us a revised Exhibit E for the payments going forward. Do
- you have an Exhibit J as well?
- 23 Kelli Berry: Yes.
- 24 Mark Swartz: It looks like the first page of that, you've got quite a few issues that you were
- unable to resolve?
- 26 **Kelli Berry**: Yes.
- 27 **Mark Swartz**: Highlighted in yellow?
- 28 Kelli Berry: That's correct.
- 29 **Mark Swartz**: and the same is true for the next page, 17?

- 1 Kelli Berry: Yes.
- 2 Mark Swartz: and what you are trying to do here was identify all the royalty payments that the
- 3 operators have made and find a corresponding deposit and to the extent that you've marked these
- 4 in yellow, you were unable to do that?
- 5 **Kelli Berry**: That's correct.
- 6 Mark Swartz: With that in mind, you never the less did some math at the very end?
- 7 **Kelli Berry**: Yes.
- 8 Mark Swartz: and what does that show?
- 9 **Kelli Berry**: Our calculations reflect that the First Bank and Trust balance is \$345.82 less than
- the balance calculated by *inaudible*.
- 11 Mark Swartz: Okay. I think the next item is the Court Order, right?
- 12 **Kelli Berry**: Yes.
- 13 Mark Swartz: Following that, for the Board members at pdf page 26. That indicates that you
- mailed to the coal owners the required notice in 2015, you've got proof of receipt and you're
- asking that Pocahontas Resources LLC, be dismissed for failure to provide evidence?
- 16 Kelli Berry: Yes.
- 17 Mark Swartz: Okay, Mr. Chairman I believe that's all I have on this docket number 7.
- 18 **Bradley Lambert**: Yea, thank you Mr. Swartz. I just want to clear up one thing. On page 21, pdf
- 19 21.
- 20 Mark Swartz: Okay.
- 21 **Bradley Lambert**: The docket that Ms. Burke signed, item number 6 says that Terrance Shea
- 22 Cook is her authorized Attorney.
- 23 Mark Swartz: Oh right.
- 24 **Bradley Lambert:** I just want to make sure that any checks written are still are the way that we
- determine a few years, be written to Ms. Burke but mailed to Mr. Cook. Is that correct?
- 26 **Kelli Berry**: That's correct.
- 27 **Bradley Lambert**: Alright. Okay, thank you. Any other questions from the Board? [No
- 28 response] Do you have anything further Mr. Swartz?

- 1 Mark Swartz: I do not.
- **Bradley Lambert**: Okay, do I have a motion?
- **<u>Donnie Rife</u>**: Donnie Rife, motion to approve.
- **Bill Harris**: Bill Harris, *Inaudible*
- **Donnie Ratliff**: I'll second.
- **Bill Harris**: I'm sorry.
- **Bradley Lambert**: Okay, we have two seconds so I guess we can record that as.
- **<u>Bill Harris:</u>** I'll withdraw mine.
- **Bradley Lambert**: Okay. So Mr. Ratliff will second the motion. Ms. Ketron, would you poll the
- 10 Board for a vote please?
- **Sally Ketron**: Okay, Butch Lambert?
- **Bradley Lambert**: Yes.
- **Sally Ketron**: Bill Harris?
- **Bill Harris**: Yes.
- **Sally Ketron:** Bruce Prather? I didn't hear you Bruce.
- **Bruce Prather**: Yes, can you hear me?
- **Sally Ketron**: Now we can.
- **Bruce Prather**: Yes.
- **Sally Ketron**: Donnie Rife?
- **Donnie Rife**: Yes.
- **Sally Ketron**: Mary Quillen.
- **Mary Quillen**: Yes.
- **Sally Ketron**: Rita Surratt?
- **Rita Surratt**: Yes.
- **Sally Ketron**: and Donnie Ratliff?

- 1 **Donnie Ratliff**: Yes.
- 2 <u>Bradley Lambert</u>: Thank you folks. Mr. Swartz, that one has been approved.
- 3 Mark Swartz: Thank you.

4 <u>ITEM NUMBER 9</u>

- 5 **Bradley Lambert**: Now we're calling Docket Item Number 9 as a petition from Pocahontas Gas
- 6 LLC, for (1) the disbursement of escrowed funds heretofore deposited with the Board's Escrow
- 7 Agent, attributable to a portion of Tracts 13, 16, a portion of 19, 34, and 39, as depicted upon the
- 8 annexed table; and (2) authorization to begin paying royalties directly to the parties listed in the
- 9 petition and (3) dismissal of the coal owners. This docket number VGOB 02-0319-1008-09. All
- 10 parties wishing to testify please identify.
- 11 Mark Swartz: Mark Swartz and Kelli Berry. The petitioner, Pocahontas Gas LLC, consents to
- proceeding to this hearing by telephone.
- 13 **Bradley Lambert**: Thank you Mr. Swartz, you may proceed.
- 14 Mark Swartz: Your name again Kelli?
- 15 **Kelli Berry**: Kelli Berry.
- 16 Mark Swartz: and who are you testifying on behalf of today?
- 17 **Kelli Berry**: Pocahontas Gas, LLC.
- 18 Mark Swartz: This is a disbursement request, correct?
- 19 **Kelli Berry**: That's correct.
- 20 **Mark Swartz**: From what unit?
- 21 Kelli Berry: VP2 Sealed Gob Unit 1.
- 22 Mark Swartz: The reason for the request or actually there's more than one reason?
- Kelli Berry: Yes, we have some Royalty Division Agreements as well as the House Bill.
- 24 Mark Swartz: and the Royalties Division Agreements, are they 50/50 agreements?
- 25 Kelli Berry: Yes.
- 26 Mark Swartz: and when you talk about the House Bill, that would pay to gas claimants under
- the; because the coal owners were noticed did not produce evidence of a claim?
- 28 **Kelli Berry**: That's correct.

- 1 Mark Swartz: Okay. You've got a plat map at page; a pretty significant size unit here at pdf
- 2 page 3. Then we come down, okay. I think you have four (4) pages of Table 1, correct?
- 3 **Kelli Berry**: Yes.
- 4 Mark Swartz: and is Table 1 where you specify that the people that are to receive payments?
- 5 **Kelli Berry**: That's correct.
- 6 Mark Swartz: Okay, have you given a name of every person, company or estate an address for
- 7 each of them in your Table 1?
- 8 Kelli Berry: Yes.
- 9 <u>Mark Swartz</u>: and is it a percentage distribution?
- 10 **Kelli Berry**: Yes.
- 11 Mark Swartz: and in the second column of the right hand edge of Table 1, have you've given a
- 12 percentage for every person, company, or estate?
- 13 Kelli Berry: Yes.
- Mark Swartz: and is the expectation that we have the Escrow Agent would use that percentage
- on the day the disbursement is made, multiply it, times the balance on hand and that will
- generate the right dollar amount?
- 17 **Kelli Berry**: That's correct.
- 18 Mark Swartz: Okay. Then even after these disbursements are made, there is still going to be an
- 19 escrow requirement and you've given us an Exhibit E showing us what that would be?
- 20 **Kelli Berry**: Yes.
- 21 <u>Mark Swartz</u>: After these disbursements, what is the acreage remaining in escrow?
- 22 **Kelli Berry**: 11.0904.
- 23 Mark Swartz: Okay, and you've also given us an Exhibit EE which is a sort of a payment going
- 24 forward path?
- 25 Kelli Berry: Yes.
- Mark Swartz: Okay. Exhibit J starts at pdf page 58 and again we have some issues that you
- 27 have not been able to resolve in terms of locating a deposit for every royalty payment and have
- 28 you highlighted those in yellow?

- 1 Kelli Berry: Yes.
- 2 Mark Swartz: It looks like in the early timeframe and their all on the 1st page of Exhibit J?
- 3 Kelli Berry: Yes.
- 4 Mark Swartz: If we go to the last page, you've done some math?
- 5 Kelli Berry: Yes.
- 6 **Sarah Gilmer**: Excuse me.
- 7 Mark Swartz: Okay.
- 8 Sarah Gilmer: Hold on just a second. Butch got disconnected, he'll be dialing right back in.
- 9 Mark Swartz: Okay.
- 10 **Kelli Berry:** Okay.
- 11 <u>Bradley Lambert</u>: Okay folks. Sorry for that, our conference line here in Lebanon just dropped
- out again. So *inaudible* you're not the only one that has had technical difficulties. So I
- apologize, continue Mr. Swartz.
- 14 Mark Swartz: We're you on the line when we started on Exhibit J, Mr. Chairman?
- 15 **Bradley Lambert**: Yes, we were.
- 16 Mark Swartz: Okay, okay. Kelli lets go then to the math that you did at the end of Exhibit J and
- summarize for us what you've found.
- 18 **Kelli Berry**: We've found that the First Bank and Trust balance *inaudible* less than our
- 19 calculation.
- 20 Mark Swartz: Okay, what was the amount?
- 21 **Kelli Berry**: \$343.75.
- 22 Mark Swartz: Okay, you also have a note over to the right of your calculation, what's that
- 23 about?
- 24 Kelli Berry: During the course of review of the unit, I found there were some owners that were
- 25 paid in error on a prior disbursement, that would be the 07 disbursement and I just wanted to
- 26 note that a portion of the deposit that was made in December, 2018 included funds that were
- 27 returned to Escrow that had been paid in error.

- 1 Mark Swartz: Okay and I take it you took those into account when you were doing your
- 2 estimate that's reflected; the math?
- 3 Kelli Berry: Yes.
- 4 Mark Swartz: Okay, then the next page is some of the split agreements, right?
- 5 **Kelli Berry**: Yes.
- 6 Mark Swartz: Then pdf page.
- 7 **Bradley Lambert**: I'm sorry to interrupt you for a minute for a question for Ms. Berry. Ms.
- 8 Berry, testified that those funds were repaid back to this portion, where did those funds come that
- 9 you repaid?
- 10 Kelli Berry: A portion of that deposit in December, 2018 were for the funds that were on hold
- pending a prior disbursement order and a portion of those funds also represent an amount that
- was paid to an owner in error and that on Tract 38, which is not being addressed in this
- disbursement. I just added that note to the Exhibit J going forward so when that tract is addressed
- again in a disbursement, we have that explanation.
- 15 **Rick Cooper**: This is Rick Cooper. Ms. Berry, will you be trying to recoup those funds in the
- 16 future?
- 17 Kelli Berry: Yes.
- **Rick Cooper:** That would be a future disbursement to recoup the funds in error, correct?
- 19 **Kelli Berry**: That's correct.
- 20 **Bradley Lambert**: Okay, thank you. Sorry for the interruption Mr. Swartz.
- 21 Mark Swartz: No problem. At pdf page 75, you indicate that you mailed to the coal owners in
- October, 2015 and again in May 2016, asking them for evidence of coal ownership or coal
- claims to CBM. You've got the mailing with regard to that to the extent that your coal owners
- 24 have split agreements. Obviously we're seeking dismissal with regard to tracts or interest that
- 25 they have split agreements with regard to but to the extent they haven't produced split
- agreements, we are asking the Board to dismiss them. Correct?
- 27 **Kelli Berry**: That's correct.
- 28 <u>Mark Swartz</u>: Okay. I think that's it Mr. Chairman.
- 29 **Bradley Lambert**: Any questions from the Board? [No response] Anything further Mr. Swartz?
- 30 Mark Swartz: No, no.

- **Bradley Lambert**: Do I have a motion?
- **<u>Donnie Rife</u>**: Donnie Rife, motion to approve.
- 3 <u>Bill Harris</u>: Bill Harris, I'll second.
- **Bradley Lambert**: I have a motion and I have a second. Any further discussion? [No response]
- 5 Ms. Ketron, would you poll for the vote please.
- **Sally Ketron**: Okay. Butch Lambert?
- **Bradley Lambert**: Yes.
- **Sally Ketron**: Bill Harris?
- **Bill Harris**: Yes.
- **Sally Ketron**: Bruce Prather
- **Bruce Prather**: Yes.
- **Sally Ketron**: Didn't hear you Bruce?
- **Bruce Prather**: Yes.
- **Sally Ketron**: Donnie Rife.
- **Donnie Rife**: Yes.
- **Sally Ketron**: Mary Quillen?
- 17 <u>Mary Quillen</u>: Yes.
- **Sally Ketron**: Rita Surratt?
- 19 Rita Surratt: Yes.
- **Sally Ketron**: and Donnie Ratliff?
- **Donnie Ratliff**: Yes.
- **Bradley Lambert**: Thank you folks. Thank you Mr. Swartz, that one is approved.

23 <u>ITEM NUMBER 11</u>

- **Bradley Lambert**: We're calling Docket Item Number 11. A petition from Pocahontas Gas
- LLC, for (1) the disbursement of escrowed funds heretofore deposited with the Board's Escrow
- Agent, attributable to a portion of Tract 1B, a portion of Tract 1D, a portion of Tract 3, and a
- 27 portion of Tract 4A, as depicted upon the annexed table; and (2) authorization to begin paying

- 1 royalties directly to the parties listed in the petition. Docket Number VGOB 04-1116-1358-04.
- 2 All parties wishing to testify please come forward and identify yourself.
- 3 Mark Swartz: Mark Swartz and Kelli Berry. The petitioner Pocahontas Gas LLC, consents to
- 4 proceeding with this hearing by telephone.
- 5 **Bradley Lambert**: Thank you Mr. Swartz, you may proceed.
- 6 Mark Swartz: Kelli, your name again.
- 7 **Kelli Berry**: Kelli Berry.
- 8 Mark Swartz: and who are you testifying on behalf of today?
- 9 **Kelli Berry**: Pocahontas Gas, LLC.
- 10 Mark Swartz: and this disbursement request pertains to what unit?
- 11 Kelli Berry: AX99.
- 12 Mark Swartz: We've got an explanation of the reasons why you're making the request and what
- are the reasons?
- 14 Kelli Berry: We have Royalty Division Agreements and also dismissal of coal owners of
- payments to oil and gas owners.
- 16 Mark Swartz: Okay. In these Royalty Split Agreements that are an issue here, are they 50/50
- agreements?
- 18 **Kelli Berry**: Yes, they are.
- 19 Mark Swartz: and you've accounted for them as such in Table 1?
- 20 <u>Kelli Berry</u>: Yes.
- 21 Mark Swartz: and then the gas claimants that's under the House Bill that provides the gas
- claimants get paid unless they coal owners come forward with evidence of the contrary?
- 23 **Kelli Berry**: Yes.
- 24 Mark Swartz: In this instance, except to the extent that there are some split agreements to coal
- owners have not come forward with additional evidence?
- 26 Kelli Berry: Correct.

- 1 Mark Swartz: and it looks like to the extent that H-W Financial doesn't have split agreements
- 2 with regard to every claimant that might make. They were previously disbursed or dismissed
- 3 under a prior order?
- 4 Kelli Berry: Yes.
- 5 Mark Swartz: Okay, I've glad a plat again and Table 1. Table 1 starts at or I should say the
- 6 tables start at pdf page 8 and Table 1 here is not a percentage disbursement, it's an exact dollar.
- 7 Right?
- 8 **Kelli Berry**: Yes.
- 9 Mark Swartz: and what you're asking in Table 1 is that the Escrow Agent actually pay the
- people that you've identified by name. The people and company, that you've identified by name
- and provided addresses for the exact amounts that are in the right hand column, correct?
- 12 **Kelli Berry**: That's correct.
- 13 Mark Swartz: Okay. Once they've made those payments to the people identified in Table 1,
- then the Escrow Agent should begin paying on a percentage basis the remaining amounts after
- Table 1 payments that are shown on the Table 2 that you have included?
- 16 Kelli Berry: Yes.
- 17 Mark Swartz: and in Table 2, have you provided the name of everybody; person, company or
- 18 estate that is to receive a payment?
- 19 **Kelli Berry**: Yes.
- 20 Mark Swartz: and you've provided an address for all of them?
- 21 Kelli Berry: Yes.
- 22 Mark Swartz: In the second column from the right hand edge of the table, you've given a
- 23 percentage for everybody and is that the percentage the Escrow Agent should apply to the
- balance on hand to calculate the dollars due on the date the disbursements are made?
- 25 **Kelli Berry**: That's correct.
- Mark Swartz: Okay and this is a Table 2 here the percentage disbursements, actually are two
- pages long and we've got or you've got a note at the foot of Table 2. What is that about?
- 28 Kelli Berry: Table 1 paid the heirs of Clara Helton for their prior ownership and the adjustment
- 29 comment explains the amount the Escrow Agent will deduct from the current balance for the
- 30 interest shown on Tract 1B that is being disbursed to derive at the current amount due to Penny
- 31 Helton and H-W Financial.

- 1 Mark Swartz: Okay, also have you edited Table 2 to account for three (3) people that I think
- 2 that did not receive the mail?
- 3 **Kelli Berry**: Yes, there are three (3) owners who did not receive notification and have been
- 4 removed from the petition.
- 5 Mark Swartz: Okay and why don't you give their names?
- 6 **Kelli Berry**: Michael D. Collins, Christopher Portal and Jason Sanford were all removed.
- 7 Mark Swartz: and then in the event that this petition is approved, you've got a revised Escrow
- 8 Exhibit E, right?
- 9 **Kelli Berry**: Yes.
- 10 Mark Swartz: and also a revised Exhibit EE, which reflect the future payments?
- 11 Kelli Berry: Yes.
- 12 Mark Swartz: On pdf page 89, you indicate what is remaining; the acreage remaining in escrow.
- 13 It looks like that is 9.9460 acres, right?
- 14 **Kelli Berry**: 9.9490.
- 15 Mark Swartz: Ninety (90). Okay and we've got an Exhibit J again. Which starts at pdf page 121
- and again we have some issues that arose when you were looking a deposit for every check?
- 17 **Kelli Berry**: Yes.
- 18 Mark Swartz: Some of them you were able to resolve, those are outlined in darker lines and
- some you weren't which are colored yellow?
- 20 Kelli Berry: Yes.
- 21 Mark Swartz: and you've noted that those kinds of problems on several pages of Exhibit J and
- then you've done your math at the end?
- 23 Kelli Berry: Yes.
- 24 Mark Swartz: and when you done your estimate of the balance and compared to the bank's
- balance in December 2019, what was the difference?
- **Kelli Berry**: The First Bank and Trust balance \$35.80 less than the balance we calculated.
- 27 Mark Swartz: Okay, the next item deals with notice to the coal operators specifically H-W
- Financial and to the extent that H-W Financial has not produced split agreements, they're to be
- 29 dismissed but obviously to the extent that they produce split agreements to be paid?

- **Kelly Berry**: Correct.
- 2 Mark Swartz: Then the balance and you've got some mailing information, copies of split
- 3 agreements. I think that's all I have Mr. Chairman.
- **Bradley Lambert**: Any questions from the Board? [No response] Anything further Mr. Swartz?
- 5 Mark Swartz: No.
- **Bradley Lambert**: Do I have a motion?
- **Donnie Rife**: Donnie Rife. Motion to approve Mr. Chair.
- **<u>Bill Harris</u>**: Bill Harris and I'll second that motion.
- **Bradley Lambert**: I have a motion and I have a second, any further discussions? [No response]
- 10 Ms. Ketron, would you poll the Board please.
- 11 <u>Sally Ketron</u>: Okay. Butch Lambert?
- **Bradley Lambert**: Yes.
- 13 Sally Ketron: Bill Harris?
- **Bill Harris**: Yes.
- **Sally Ketron**: Bruce Prather? [No response] We didn't hear that Mr. Prather.
- **Bruce Prather**: Yes.
- **Sally Ketron**: Donnie Rife?
- **Donnie Rife**: Yes.
- **Sally Ketron**: Mary Quillen?
- 20 Mary Quillen: Yes.
- **Sally Ketron**: Rita Surratt?
- **Rita Surratt**: Yes.
- **Sally Ketron**: Donnie Ratliff?
- **Donnie Ratliff**: Yes.
- **Bradley Lambert**: Thank you folks. Thank you Mr. Swartz, that one is approved.
- 26 <u>ITEM NUMBER 13</u>

- 1 <u>Bradley Lambert</u>: We're calling Docket Item Number 13. A petition from Pocahontas Gas,
- 2 LLC, for (1) the disbursement of escrowed funds heretofore deposited with the Board's Escrow
- 3 Agent, attributable to Tracts 1L1, 1L2, 1M, 1N, 1O, 1Q, 1S1 and 1S2, as depicted upon the
- 4 annexed table; and (2) authorization to being paying royalties directly to the parties listed in the
- 5 petition. This is docket number VGOB 08-0415-2195-03. All parties wishing to testify please
- 6 forward to be identified.
- 7 Mark Swartz: Mark Swartz and Kelli Berry. The petitioner Pocahontas Gas LLC, consents to
- 8 proceeding to this hearing via telephone.
- 9 **Bradley Lambert**: Thank you Mr. Swartz, you may proceed.
- 10 Mark Swartz: Kelli, your name one last time.
- 11 Kelli Berry: Kelli Berry.
- 12 Mark Swartz: Who are you here on behalf of?
- 13 **Kelli Berry**: Pocahontas Gas, LLC.
- 14 Mark Swartz: What unit does this pertain to?
- 15 **<u>Kelli Berry</u>**: R54.
- 16 Mark Swartz: and the reasons for the disbursement requests are?
- 17 **Kelli Berry**: A coal dismissal based on House Bill.
- 18 Mark Swartz: Okay. So we've given notice to coal owners, we've not received evidence of
- 19 ownership response and we're proceeding to request the authority to pay the gas claimants
- 20 pursuant to the House Bill and out of escrow and also to pay them directly in the future?
- 21 **Kelli Berry**: Yes.
- 22 Mark Swartz: We've got a plat. We have a Table 1 that starts at pdf page 9 and this is a
- 23 percentage table, correct?
- 24 **Kelli Berry**: Yes.
- 25 Mark Swartz: For each person that you are proposing to receive a payment out of escrow, have
- you given the name of the person and an address?
- 27 Kelli Berry: Yes.
- 28 Mark Swartz: I'm sorry I didn't hear you Kelli.
- 29 Kelli Berry: Yes.

- 1 Mark Swartz: and you've got 999 at the bottom at CNX Gas, what's that about?
- 2 **Kelli Berry**: Unit R54 was re-pooled due to mapping changes last year and the results of that re-
- 3 pooling was an acreage overage in escrow so we are requesting the acres that are now over in the
- 4 escrow account be refunded to CNX that we may distribute them to the appropriate owners.
- 5 <u>Mark Swartz</u>: So you're going to distribute that overage to your lessors?
- 6 **Kelli Berry**: That's correct.
- 7 Mark Swartz: Okay, so that's what the 999 account is about?
- 8 **Kelli Berry**: That's correct.
- 9 Mark Swartz: Okay. In making the disbursement again, this is a percentage and the Escrow
- Agent should use the percentages for each person and CNX in the 2nd column from the right
- 11 hand edge?
- 12 **Kelli Berry**: Yes.
- 13 Mark Swartz: Okay.
- 14 **Rick Cooper**: Can I interrupt Mr. Swartz? This is Rick Cooper.
- 15 Mark Swartz: Just for clarity Ms. Berry. Would you explain how the 999 figures into the
- distributed the dollars across acreage?
- 17 **Kelli Berry:** The 999 represents the acres that are over in the escrow account that were paid into
- 18 the escrow account prior to the unit being re-pooled. Those acres are represented on the Exhibit
- 19 EE in the acreage changes that occurred with the re-pooling.
- 20 **Rick Cooper:** So you distributed that across the entire account?
- 21 **Kelli Berry**: I'm not sure I understand what you're asking.
- 22 **Rick Cooper**: I'm not sure I understand exactly how you are distributing those dollars out on the
- 23 999.
- Kelli Berry: Okay, the unit was re-pooled in 2019. So prior to that re-pooling we had paid a
- certain amount into the escrow account based on the acres based on the original pooling order.
- Once having changes took place and the unit was re-pooled, the acres throughout the unit were
- 27 redistributed and that ended up resulting in too many acres that had been paid into the escrow
- account based on the re-pooling acres. Those acres have been redistributed on the Exhibit E and
- 29 the Exhibit EE. The Exhibit EE reflects the acres as they were redistributed based on the re-
- 30 pooling numbers. The 0.86 acres that are now built in the escrow account, we are requesting that

- those acres be paid back to CNX so that we can correct those payments to the appropriate owners
- 2 based on the re-pooling acreage.
- Rick Cooper: So in short, you're trying to balance the account out here?
- 4 **Kelli Berry**: Yes.
- 5 **Rick Cooper**: Okay.
- 6 **Bradley Lambert**: Okay?
- 7 **Rick Cooper**: Yes.
- 8 **Bradley Lambert**: Okay, you may continue Mr. Swartz.
- 9 Mark Swartz: Kelli, to help in calcifying. The .86 acres and that percentage is the percentage
- applied to all the money in escrow, not just too any particular tract because you put in .86 acres
- 11 too many?
- 12 **Kelli Berry**: In the past, prior to the re-pooling.
- 13 Mark Swartz: Correct.
- 14 **Kelli Berry**: That's correct.
- 15 **Mark Swartz**: Okay. Did that help Mr. Cooper?
- 16 **Rick Cooper**: Yes, you're right. If you're balancing out the account like they did, it's clear.
- 17 Thank you.
- 18 Mark Swartz: Okay. Now I lost tract, but I don't think we made it to Exhibit J, correct?
- 19 **Kelli Berry**: We had not.
- 20 Mark Swartz: Okay, so you did another reconciliation with regard to this unit. Again,
- 21 attempting to match royalty checks to deposits and if I'm not mistaken. It looks like, you've
- found some discrepancies, some of which you were able to reconcile and one you were not?
- 23 **Kelli Berry**: Yes.
- 24 Mark Swartz: Okay. Then you did your math again.
- 25 Kelli Berry: Yes.
- 26 <u>Mark Swartz</u>: In the math entries, what did you determine?
- 27 **Kelli Berry**: That First Bank and Trust shows \$44.35 more on their balance than we do.

- 1 Mark Swartz: Okay, then there's a double asterisk (**) there which is the explanation for the
- 2 yellow at the very beginning indicating something that you could not resolve and that's the
- 3 reason?
- **Kelli Berry**: Right, that initial deposit did not match the bank records and that is the reason for
- 5 the discrepancy.
- 6 Mark Swartz: Okay. Then we've got your coal owner mailing information and indicated you
- 7 mailed in 2015, proof of notice and then again asking that coal owner be dismissed and that's all
- 8 I have with regard to Docket Item 13, Mr. Chairman.
- **Bradley Lambert**: Do I have any questions from the Board? [No response] Anything further,
- 10 Mr. Swartz?
- 11 Mark Swartz: No.
- **Bradley Lambert**: Do I have a motion?
- **Donnie Rife**: Donnie Rife, motion to approve.
- 14 <u>Bill Harris</u>: Bill Harris, I'll second it then or either way.
- **Bradley Lambert**: I have a motion and I have a second. Any further discussion? [No response]
- 16 Ms. Ketron, will you poll the Board for the vote, please.
- **Sally Ketron**: Okay. Butch Lambert?
- **Bradley Lambert**: Yes.
- **Sally Ketron**: Bill Harris?
- **Bill Harris**: Yes.
- **Sally Ketron**: Bruce Prather?
- **Bruce Prather**: Yes.
- **Sally Ketron**: Could you repeat that Mr. Prather?
- **Bruce Prather**: Yes.
- **Sally Ketron**: I think that was a yes. Okay. Donnie Rife?
- **Donnie Rife**: Yes.
- **Sally Ketron**: Mary Quillen?
- **Mary Quillen**: Yes.

- 1 **Sally Ketron**: Rita Surratt?
- 2 Rita Surratt: Yes.
- 3 **Sally Ketron**: and Donnie Ratliff?
- 4 **Donnie Ratliff**: Yes.
- 5 **Bradley Lambert**: Okay, thank you folks. Thank you Mr. Swartz, that one is approved and it
- 6 looks like that's all that you have for Pocahontas Gas. I appreciate calling in and hope this went
- 7 somewhat smoothly but maybe we can get back to having regular meetings next month and we'll
- 8 just have to. No, No. Excuse me, I guess I can make the announcement now since Rick was
- 9 shaking his head. There are no docket items for next month. So we will not be having a July
- hearing and we'll cover that later. Mr. Swartz and Ms. Berry, thank you all very much for your
- patience with this process. We hope it went well for you.
- 12 **Kelli Berry**: Thank you.
- 13 Mark Swartz: We really appreciate all the effort that went into organizing this telephone
- conference. Frankly, from my standpoint. Its better being there in person but it certainly went
- well and we appreciate all your help and thank you again.
- 16 **Bradley Lambert**: You all have a nice day, thank you.
- 17 Mark Swartz: You too, bye-bye. Kelli, give me a call.

18 <u>ITEM NUMBER 14</u>

- 19 **Bradley Lambert**: Okay, and the next item is Docket Item Number 14 is a petition from
- 20 Diversified Production LLC, requesting the Virginia Gas and Oil Board to enter an order
- 21 transferring the right to operate all units listed in this application that were established by Board
- Order, as well as any petitions currently pending before the Board, from Diversified South
- 23 Production, LLC and Core Appalachia Operating, LLC, to Diversified Production LLC. Docket
- Number VGOB 19-1119-4227. All parties wishing to testify please come forward and identify
- 25 yourselves. [No response] Anyone from Diversified on the phone?
- Jessica Greathouse: This is Jessica Greathouse, I'm the Manager of Regulatory. I'm testifying
- via telephone.
- 28 **Bradley Lambert**: Okay, thank you. Anyone else for Diversified on the phone?
- 29 **Unknown**: Mr. Chairman, Diversified does consent to the proceedings with this Hearing via
- 30 telephone as well.
- 31 **Bradley Lambert**: Can you speak just a little bit please, you're a little bit low for us.

- 1 **Unknown**: Are you talking about me Mr. Chairman?
- 2 **Bradley Lambert**: Yes, sir.
- 3 <u>Unknown</u>: Well it would be helpful if I took my hand off the speaker, probably so. That will
- 4 work, Okay. I think Ms. Greathouse needs to be sworn.
- 5 **Bradley Lambert**: If you can go ahead but I don't think we picked up for the record your name?
- 6 Unknown: Jessica, would you please state your name. By whom your employed and your job
- 7 description and then be sworn please.
- 8 **Jessica Greathouse**: Jessica Greathouse, I'm the Manager of Regulatory for Diversified
- 9 Production, LLC.
- 10 **Sarah Gilmer**: Ms. Greathouse.
- 11 <u>Jessica Greathouse</u>: Do you swear and affirm that your testimony is the truth, the whole truth
- and nothing but the truth?
- 13 **Jessica Greathouse**: I do.
- 14 **Bradley Lambert**: Mr. Scott? Mr. Scott, are you on the line?
- 15 **Mr. Scott**: Yes, sir. I sure am.
- 16 **Bradley Lambert**: Oh okay. I'm sorry Mr. Scott, you're just so low we couldn't hear you, but
- thank you. That's better, Mr. Scott, do you agree that the testimony that you're going to be given
- by electronic means will be sufficient for you?
- 19 Mr. Scott: Yes, sir. That's correct.
- 20 **Bradley Lambert**: You may proceed then Mr. Scott.
- 21 Mr. Scott: Thank you. Ms. Greathouse, you're familiar with this application. Is that correct?
- 22 **Jessica Greathouse**: I am.
- 23 Mr. Scott: We've filed this application there has been a couple of mergers between both
- 24 Diversified Southern and Core Appalachia into Diversified Production, is that correct?
- 25 **Jessica Grayhouse**: That's correct.
- 26 Mr. Scott: and the reason for this application is to have consistency in operations and
- 27 recognition for Diversified Productions for their operations in the Commonwealth of Virginia, is
- 28 that correct?

- **Jessica Greathouse**: That's correct.
- 2 Mr. Scott: Okay and presently the Diversified Productions is authorized to transact business in
- 3 the Commonwealth of Virginia, is that right?
- **Jessica Greathouse**: That's correct.
- **Mr. Scott**: and there is a blanket bond on file with the Department for Diversified Productions, is
- 6 that also correct?
- **Jessica Greathouse**: That's correct.
- 8 Mr. Scott: So you would have to. All these permits, orders or anything pending before the Board
- 9 would be now in the name or transferred to Diversified Productions LLC, is that correct?
- **Jessica Greathouse**: That's correct, I requested such.
- 11 Mr. Scott: That's all I have Mr. Chairman.
- **Bradley Lambert**: Okay, thank you Mr. Scott. Any questions from the Board? [No response]
- 13 Anything further Mr. Scott?
- **Mr. Scott**: That's all I have on this one, Mr. Chairman.
- **Bradley Lambert**: Do I have a motion?
- **Donnie Rife**: Donnie Rife, motion to approve.
- **Bill Harris**: Bill Harris, I'll second.
- **Bradley Lambert**: I have a motion and I have a second. Any further discussion? [No response]
- 19 Ms. Ketron, would you poll the Board for the vote, please.
- **Sally Ketron**: Okay, Butch Lambert?
- **Bradley Lambert**: Yes.
- **Sally Ketron**: Bill Harris?
- 23 <u>Bill Harris</u>: Yes.
- **Sally Ketron**: Bruce Prather?
- **Bruce Prather**: *inaudible*
- **Sally Ketron**: Could you repeat that Mr. Prather?
- **Bruce Prather**: *inaudible*

- 1 Sally Ketron: I can faintly hear what he is saying, can anybody else hear him?
- **Bruce Prather**: *inaudible*
- **Bradley Lambert**: No, Sally. This is Butch, I can't hear him.
- **Sarah Gilmer**: Mr. Prather said he would.
- 5 Mr. Scott: Sally, he's saying he's wanting to recuse himself.
- **Sarah Gilmer**: Yes.
- **Bradley Lambert**: Sally, did you hear that?
- 8 Sally Ketron: No.
- **Bradley Lambert**: I think Mr. Scott said that Mr. Prather wanted to recuse himself.
- 10 Sally Ketron: Okay, I did hear that. I just didn't know for the record if we actually needed to
- hear it. If you like? To move on?
- **Bradley Lambert**: Yes, please.
- **Sally Ketron**: Okay, Donnie Rife?
- **Donnie Rife**: Yes.
- **Sally Ketron**: Mary Quillen?
- **Mary Quillen**: Yes.
- **Sally Ketron**: Rita Surratt?
- **Rita Surratt**: Yes.
- **Sally Ketron**: and Donnie Ratliff?
- **Donnie Ratliff**: Yes.
- **Bradley Lambert**: Okay, thank you Mr. Scott. That one is approved.
- 22 Mr. Scott: Thank you Mr. Chairman.

23 <u>ITEM NUMBER 15</u>

- **Bradley Lambert**: We're moving onto Docket Item Number 15, a petition from EnerVest
- Operating, LLC, for pooling. Unit VCI-530621, Docket Number VGOB 20-0218-4228. All
- 26 parties wishing to testify please identify yourself.

- 1 <u>Tim Scott</u>: Tim Scott for EnerVest Operating LLC, and Mr. Chairman, EnerVest requests that
- the matter be withdrawn.
- 3 **Bradley Lambert**: Okay, Mr. Scott. Thank you. That item will be withdrawn. Thanks Mr. Scott.
- 4 <u>Tim Scott</u>: Thank you. It's good to hear your all's voices.
- 5 **Bradley Lambert**: You too, Mr. Scott.
- 6 **Tim Scott**: Thank you.

7 <u>ITEM NUMBER 16</u>

- 8 **Bradley Lambert**: We're calling Docket Item Number 16, the Board will receive an update of
- 9 Board and Division activities from the staff. Mr. Cooper?
- 10 **Rick Cooper**: Yes, I won't go over the Escrow Account. Ms. Maney covered most of that but
- most of you all should have received an email with four (4) documents in it that we need to talk
- about. So I ask now, do I need to go over all four (4) of these and you all approve them or one at
- a time? I'm not sure how to do that.
- 14 **Bradley Lambert**: Let's do them one at a time Rick.
- 15 **Rick Cooper**: Okay. In everybody's email, it should be in the same order. They were all scanned
- the same. This first one is closing VGOB 2048, what we have found out is all four (4) of these
- maybe low dollars but there's been several hours into resolving these. The main thing is that we
- have resolved these. This particular account here, 2048 has \$.37 in it. Through our research, we
- 19 have found out the pooling order was withdrawn by Equitable in October 16, 2007. So we are
- requesting on this one that we send the \$.37; now this well belongs to EnerVest, to send this \$.37
- 21 to EnerVest and close this particular docket.
- 22 **Bradley Lambert**: Do I have a motion?
- 23 **<u>Bill Harris</u>**: Bill Harris, motion to approve.
- 24 **Donnie Rife**: Donnie Rife, second.
- 25 **Bradley Lambert**: I have a motion and I have a second. Any discussions or questions for Mr.
- 26 Cooper? [No response] Ms. Ketron, would you poll the Board for the vote please.
- 27 **Sally Ketron**: Okay. Butch Lambert?
- 28 **Bradley Lambert**: Yes.
- 29 **Sally Ketron**: Bill Harris?
- 30 **Bill Harris**: Yes.

- 1 **Sally Ketron**: Bruce Prather?
- 2 **Bruce Prather**: Yes.
- 3 **Sally Ketron**: Donnie Rife?
- 4 **Donnie Rife**: Yes.
- 5 **Sally Ketron**: Mary Quillen?
- 6 **Mary Quillen**: Yes.
- 7 **Sally Ketron**: Rita Surratt?
- 8 Rita Surratt: Yes.
- 9 **Sally Ketron**: and Donnie Ratliff?
- 10 **Donnie Ratliff**: Yes.
- 11 **Bradley Lambert**: Thank you Mr. Cooper. You can close that account.
- 12 **Rick Cooper:** Okay. The second one right here is that some of you know this, many of the Board
- Members over the years have asked, if you look at the *inaudible* report, it's on page 59. We
- call them the green accounts. It's always at the bottom of the escrow summaries. We've done a
- lot of research trying to find out who these accounts belong to. This particular one has \$.48 in it
- and it's been there for a really long time. It's called the Gregory account, it's 888115 and
- working with the operator and reading all the transcripts and things like that we have finally
- 18 concluded this use to be a Cabot Well. Back in the early days, when they came and pooled some
- of these wells, they would sometimes pool a well then come back a second time and pool it later.
- 20 For whatever reason, they were not combined and this happens to be one of those accounts.
- 21 They've pooled this and these are unknown individuals in here for \$.48. We've now determined
- 22 that the money belongs into the COGC2 well, its Docket 96-0716-0546. It's now owned by Nytis
- Exploration. We have worked with Nytis Exploration and they all agree that this \$.48 should go
- into the COGC2. Just to let you know, there will be a petition in the very near future for the
- unknown, unlocatable disbursement of \$.48 for remaining balance in COGC2 for approval on
- 26 that.
- 27 **Bradley Lambert**: Do I have a motion?
- 28 <u>Unknown</u>: Motion made for approval Mr. Chair.
- 29 **Bradley Lambert**: I have a motion from Mr. Rife. I have a motion and I have a second. Any
- further discussions or questions for Mr. Cooper? [No response] If not, Ms. Ketron, would you
- 31 poll the Board for the vote please.

- 1 <u>Sally Ketron</u>: Okay. Butch Lambert?
- **Bradley Lambert**: Yes.
- **Sally Ketron**: Bill Harris?
- **Bill Harris**: Yes.
- **Sally Ketron**: Bruce Prather?
- **Bruce Prather**: Yes.
- **Sally Ketron**: Donnie Rife?
- **Donnie Rife**: Yes.
- **Sally Ketron**: Mary Quillen?
- **Mary Quillen**: Yes.
- **Sally Ketron**: Rita Surratt?
- 12 Rita Surratt: Yes.
- **Sally Ketron**: and Donnie Ratliff?
- **Donnie Ratliff**: Yes.
- **Bradley Lambert**: Thank you Board Members. Mr. Cooper, you can close that account.
- **Rick Cooper**: Thank you. So this next one is also we call it one of the Green Accounts. It's been
- 17 setting out there for twenty-five (25) years. In the Escrow Summary it's called the Henry
- Sutherland account, 8888110 but working with EnerVest Operating and reading the transcripts
- 19 we've determined this is another of those situations where it was pooled on two separate
- 20 occasions and EnerVest agreed with us. At the time, it was an EQT well, just to let you know.
- 21 This is also an unknown individual group too. We have determined that this \$227.20 needs to be
- moved from Sutherland unknown account to VC2277 EnerVest and all parties agreed that's
- 23 where the monies should be going so we would like to close the Sutherland account once we do
- 24 that. There's been no deposits in these Green Accounts for 15-20 years. So the money just sits
- 25 there for the 15-20 years.
- **Bradley Lambert**: Okay. Do I have a motion?
- **Donnie Rife**: Motion made for approval Mr. Chair. Donnie Rife.
- **Bill Harris**: Bill Harris, I'll second.

- **Bradley Lambert**: I have a motion and I have a second. Any further discussion or questions for
- 2 Mr. Cooper? [No response] Ms. Ketron, would you poll the Board for the vote please.
- **Sally Ketron**: Okay. Butch Lambert?
- **Bradley Lambert**: Yes.
- **Sally Ketron:** Bill Harris?
- **Bill Harris**: Yes.
- **Sally Ketron**: Bruce Prather?
- **Bruce Prather**: Yes.
- **Sally Ketron**: Donnie Rife?
- **Donnie Rife**: Yes.
- **Sally Ketron**: Mary Quillen?
- **Mary Quillen**: Yes.
- **Sally Ketron**: Rita Surratt?
- **Rita Surratt**: Yes.
- **Sally Ketron**: and Donnie Ratliff?
- **Donnie Ratliff**: Yes.
- **Bradley Lambert**: Okay, thank you members. Mr. Cooper, you can close that account.
- **Rick Cooper**: Thank you. One more, so this one is just a little bit different and again, we've put
- a lot of hours into finding this. This particular well here that we're talking about is VGOB 07-
- 20 1016-0405. It had several owners, it started out as an Ashland Well in 93, went to Blazer in 98,
- went to Equitable in 2006, went to Range Resources in 2015, and went to EnerVest in 2016. In
- 22 this particular situation right here, the well was never drilled and the order expired. So that
- \$132.62 in that account; and we've worked with EnerVest, we are requesting that this money be
- sent back to Ashland and so I think with Ms. Gilmer, it took us several hours to locate an
- Ashland Subsidiary that would receive the money. We did finally find someone and they did
- send in a W-9 so we want to send this \$132.62 back to Matthew Spence at Ashland LLC in
- 27 Dublin, Ohio and close this account also.
- **Bradley Lambert**: Do we have a motion?
- **Donnie Rife**: Motion made for approval Mr. Chair. Donnie Rife.

- 1 **Bill Harris**: I'll second it, Bill Harris.
- 2 **Bradley Lambert**: I have a motion and I have a second. Any further discussion or questions for
- 3 Mr. Cooper? [No response] If not, Ms. Ketron, would you poll the Board for the vote please.
- 4 **Sally Ketron**: Okay. Butch Lambert?
- 5 **Bradley Lambert**: Yes.
- 6 **Sally Ketron**: Bill Harris?
- 7 **Bill Harris**: Yes.
- 8 **Sally Ketron**: Bruce Prather?
- 9 **Bruce Prather**: Yes.
- 10 **Sally Ketron**: Donnie Rife?
- 11 **Donnie Rife**: Yes.
- 12 <u>Sally Ketron</u>: Mary Quillen? [No response] Ms. Quillen, we didn't hear you.
- 13 Mary Quillen: Yes.
- 14 **Sally Ketron**: Okay. Rita Surratt?
- 15 Rita Surratt: Yes.
- 16 **Sally Ketron**: and Donnie Ratliff?
- 17 **Donnie Ratliff**: Yes.
- 18 **Bradley Lambert**: Okay, thank you Board. Mr. Cooper, you can close that account. Anything
- 19 further?
- 20 **Rick Cooper:** Yes, one more item. So just to let you know, as you've heard today. We're talking
- 21 about these unknown, unlocatable. As we move forward on these, the Board had on our coal
- dismissals, the Board had gave us direction on when these items come up in front of the Board.
- The exception on these unknown and unlocatable, as a general rule, you're just going to get one
- Docket Item, there's not going to be multiple disbursements. We're clearing the Docket Items
- out all on one petition and like I said earlier, we've probably had 200 of these or more that we
- are reviewing and working with the companies on. I guess I am asking for the Board's direction,
- so is our dollar amount that we should bring in front of the Board, for example; I'm using this as
- an example. The Board can determine this so just for an example, if an account is under X
- 29 number of dollars, should it come in front of the Board? Now I don't know what that number is
- but under the coal dismissals, as a general rule, the coal dismissals have had multiple

- disbursements if it was more than \$500, the Board had approved that we bring it in front of the
- 2 Board as long as testimony cleared that up that we could do the 2nd, 3rd, 4th disbursement after
- 3 that. But the exception in this situation is these are one time disbursements. I guess we're looking
- 4 for direction from the Board, how much over and under can an account be before it's required to
- 5 come up in front of the Board? I can tell you these range, as honest as I can, from \$1000
- *inaudible* less than, and some of them have \$2-3,000 more than the bank shows. So we're just
- 7 asking for the Board's direction on what you all require or want to see if you want any of these to
- 8 come in front of the Board?
- 9 **Bradley Lambert**: Okay, I'll open that up for discussion and questions for Rick. [No response]
- 10 **Rick Cooper**: So again, I know it's something you have to talk about but again I don't know
- when you want us to bring before the Board but again, some of them are more than a \$1,000 off
- or less than and these are unknown, unlocatable. The complicated part, just to let you know, most
- every company that we have has been bought out multiple times and you all know about
- different escrow agents we've had but we're just looking for direction. I don't have a number.
- 15 <u>Bill Harris</u>: Rick, you said these were unknown and unlocatable accounts?
- Rick Cooper: Yes, these dollars will be going under a one-time disbursement as a general rule,
- to be going directly to the Treasury account that we talked about. I guess we talked about last fall
- a couple of times and we've started that process. We've talked about it earlier so when this
- petition comes through, the Board has granted us the authority to review these internally and I
- 20 guess I'm asking the Board, is there any conditions on over or under that would require the
- 21 Board to hear these? And again some of them are and I'm being honest, more than a \$1,000
- 22 under and more than \$2,000 over, not several but I don't know how many that number would be
- but I'm just trying to get some terms and conditions we can work under what the Board's
- 24 comfortable with.
- 25 **Bradley Lambert**: Rick, what are you uncomfortable with as far as the dollar amount. Are you
- 26 concerned there might be mistakes that the Board needs to review or what makes you
- 27 uncomfortable about it? Since we've already given you the authority to go ahead and make
- 28 payments to these unknown unlocatable.
- 29 **Rick Cooper**: So I would think a great example would be the way Ms. Berry gives the extensive
- 30 testimony on the research and background work she had done to try to resolve these issues. My
- 31 only question is should every operator do that at least once? I don't know if they should or
- 32 should not, but that's my question to the Board. We will do whatever the Board directs.
- 33 **<u>Bradley Lambert</u>**: Okay, let me ask another question. How soon do you need to know that?
- Rick Cooper: We've got some pending so we will just hold those until we get a decision. I mean
- we have some setting now that could be approved that are under these conditions. Like I said, I

- don't know if this is going to be 10 or 100 as we sit here today. We've got 300 or 350 more of
- these to do and it's just sort of like we did on a coal dismissal. Again, you all set a ground rule,
- but those come back multiple times. The unknown unlocatable are a one-time to the Treasury.
- 4 <u>Bill Harris</u>: This is Bill Harris. Let me just ask a question, if we say to just go ahead and not put
- 5 a limit on that and you go through with it, what's the worse that will happen? I mean is
- 6 somebody going to show up a couple of years from now and say that was my money?
- 7 **Rick Cooper**: No, they would not be coming to us. Once we disbursed these, that liability and
- 8 responsibility falls to the Treasury of Virginia. They would have to go through the Treasury of
- 9 Virginia to chase those funds down. I guess the only thing we're trying to ensure is that we do
- our due diligence at this level before we disburse it to them.
- 11 <u>Bill Harris</u>: Okay, that was my question.
- 12 **Rick Cooper**: Again, I understand it's complicated but if you leave it up to our discretion. I
- guess that's something the Board has to tell us to do and we will use our discretion. The petitions
- themselves don't offer testimony on how they achieve their reconciliation of their *inaudible*.
- 15 They may show tables but if there's errors or mistakes, there's nothing in there that documents
- that. If you all don't think that it's important, we can move forward. I guess that's my question.
- 17 **Bradley Lambert**: My thoughts on that is that we have tried for years and Rick and his staff
- have done an excellent job of trying to identify unknown unlocatable and we have been another
- 19 two years working with Treasury and that's been a good relationship. Rick and his staff have
- done an excellent job in working with Treasury as well. The money seems to be going okay.
- 21 These are my thoughts is that given the excellent work that Rick and his staff are doing, I would
- 22 probably say not to put a limit on it and let Rick and his staff continue to do the work their doing
- and once the money gets to Treasury, then it's pretty much out of our hands. If there's people
- that does come forward, then they don't have to come to us they got to go to Treasury. That's
- 25 where their money will be. So I would say and just open for discussion, I'm not making a
- recommendation. I'm just opening for discussion, is to not set a limit and let Rick and his staff
- 27 manage as they have and keep working with Treasury.
- 28 Mary Quillen: This is Mary Quillen and I totally agree with Butch on this because they have
- 29 made over a number of years effort, after effort, after effort to identify these folks and they've
- done a great job. Everything has gone smoothly and I agree that we should let them continue.
- 31 **Bradley Lambert**: Any other thoughts?
- 32 **Bill Harris**: I agree with Mary. Bill Harris.
- 33 **Donnie Rife**: Donnie Rife. Agreed.
- 34 **<u>Bradley Lambert</u>**: Rita, do you have any thoughts on one way or the other?

- 1 Rita Surratt: Yes, I agree. I think they've done an excellent job and I think we should let
- 2 *inaudible*.
- **Donnie Ratliff**: This is Donnie Ratliff *inaudible*.
- **Bradley Lambert**: Mr. Prather? Are you still with us? [No response] Mr. Prather, are you still
- 5 with us?
- **Bruce Prather**: *inaudible* I agree, if you can hear me.
- **Bradley Lambert**: I barely heard you Mr. Prather, but I heard you say you would agree to
- 8 continue and let Mr. Cooper and staff handle. So it looks like we have a consensus of the Board.
- 9 So Mr. Cooper, I think that will be your direction.
- **Rick Cooper**: Thank you. Carry on.

11 <u>ITEM NUMBER 17</u>

- **Bradley Lambert**: The last item on our docket is the review and approval of November minutes.
- 13 If anyone has those in front of them, we'll look at those. If there are any corrections or additions
- that need to be to be made, if not, I'll entertain a motion to approve the November 2019 Minutes.
- **Donnie Rife**: Motion made to approve as read Mr. Chair.
- **Bill Harris**: Bill Harris. I'll second that.
- **Bradley Lambert**: Okay. I'll have a motion and I have a second. Ms. Ketron, would you poll the
- 18 Board please.
- **Sally Ketron**: Okay. Butch Lambert?
- **Bradley Lambert**: Yes.
- **Sally Ketron**: Donnie Rife?
- **Donnie Rife**: Yes.
- **Sally Ketron**: Bruce Prather?
- **Bruce Prather**: Yes.
- **Sally Ketron:** Okay. Mary Quillen?
- 26 Mary Quillen: Yes.
- **Sally Ketron**: Bill Harris?
- **Bill Harris**: Yes.

- 1 **Sally Ketron**: and Donnie Ratliff?
- 2 **Donnie Ratliff**: Yes.
- 3 **Sally Ketron**: Oh, Rita Surratt? I'm sorry.
- 4 Rita Surratt: Yes.
- 5 **Bradley Lambert**: Okay, thank you folks. The November 2019 minutes are approved. I
- 6 apologize but we worked on catering but we couldn't get it to everybody so we won't be able to
- 7 have out lunch today. Keep in mind there will be no July meeting because as of today, we have
- 8 no docket items. So folks, thank you very much for your participation. Thanks to Rick and his
- 9 staff for all the work they did in getting this call together and trying to organize it and J, thank
- you. I apologize that your first hearing had to be in a situation and in a setting like this but I hope
- it made a little bit of sense and you can get down to the next one that we have in face, but thanks
- to you. Any comments J on how this went or what we need to do differently?
- 13 **Jerald Hess**: No comments, no sir. It's a pleasure to be everybody's lawyer. I thoroughly
- enjoyed the meeting and applaud you guys. I think the Board did good work today and handled
- some technical issues and handled it just fine. So I look forward to meeting everybody in person
- 16 someday.
- 17 **Bradley Lambert**: Okay. Thank you J. We appreciate you and the work that the AG staff does
- for the Gas and Oil Board. So at this time, I'll entertain a motion to dismiss.
- 19 **Donnie Rife**: Motion made Mr. Chairman.
- 20 **Bill Harris:** I'll second it. Bill Harris.
- 21 **Bradley Lambert**: Okay, if there's any objections, please speak up. If not, we'll dismiss the
- hearing for today. [No response] You all have a good day, stay safe and hopefully we can get
- over the COVID 19 and we can be back together soon.